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# Shoot!

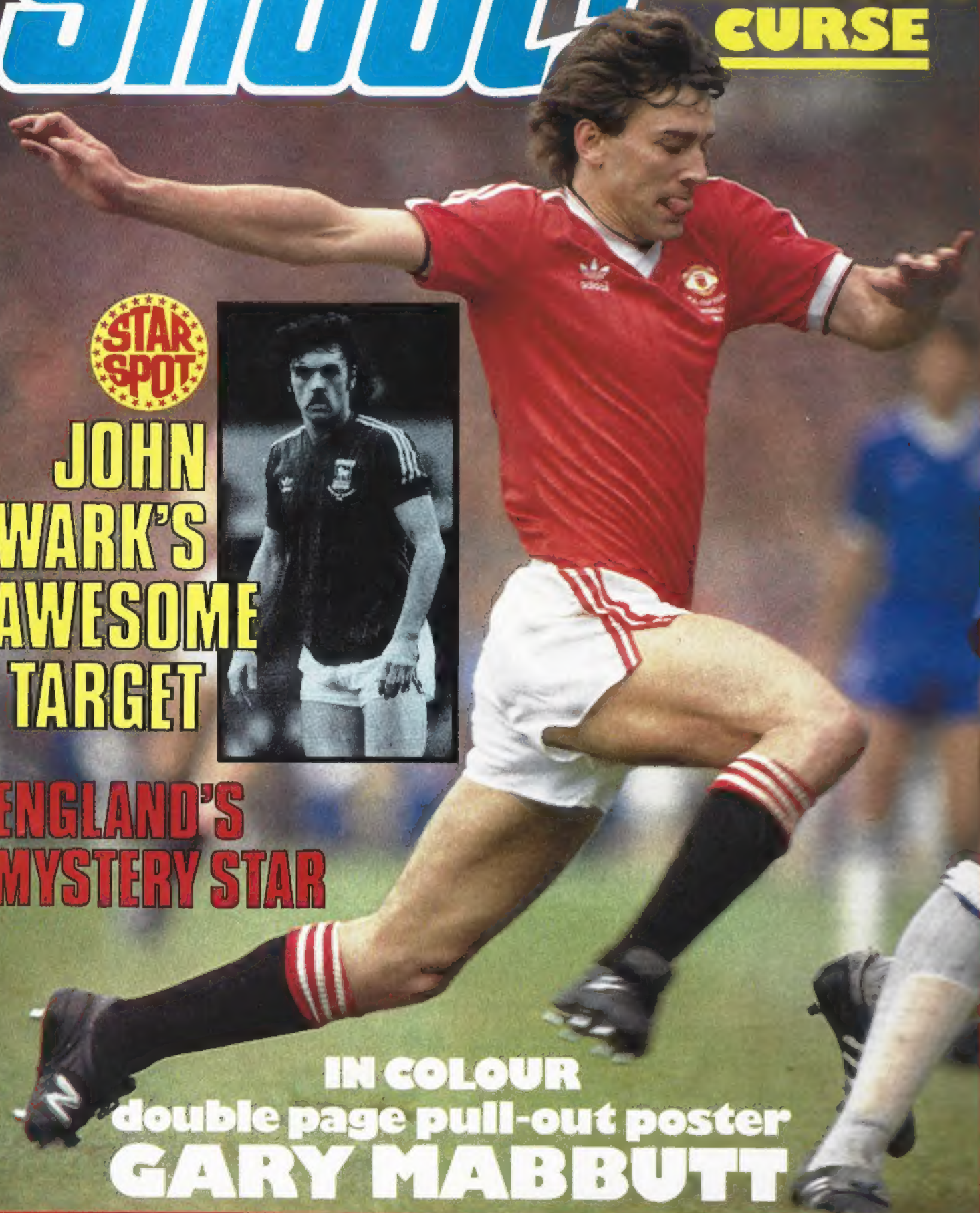
**BRYAN  
ROBSON'S  
CURSE**



**JOHN  
WARK'S  
AWESOME  
TARGET**



**ENGLAND'S  
MYSTERY STAR**



**IN COLOUR**  
**double page pull-out poster**  
**GARY MABBUTT**

Australia — 65c; New Zealand 65c; Malaysia — \$1.95; Italy — L.2,000; Denmark — Kr.9.95; IR 44p (inc VAT).



**E**VERY time John Wark reads about his phenomenal scoring record over the past three seasons, the Scottish international swallows hard, checks his palms for tell-tale signs of perspiration and offers a silent prayer that his goal-touch will not desert him.

Wark, one of the most deadly finishers to emerge from the modern school of comprehensive midfield players, is feared and respected throughout the football world.

His goals are often spectacular, they are winners, priceless point-savers, volleys, headers, acrobatic mid-air scissors kicks and close-range tap-ins. And the number of goals this 26-year-old Glaswegian scores — for Ipswich Town and Scotland — makes it increasingly difficult for a number of so-called top strikers to justify their existence.

But if Wark's exploits in and around the box frighten opponents — they terrify him!

"I have set myself an impossible standard," he says. "I know that such high scoring cannot go on every season. The best finishers in the game suffer barren spells. So what price a midfield player whose current role is to start every game just in front of the back four?"

"Yes, that is where I play for Ipswich. People probably don't even register that fact. But I began my playing days as a sweeper, progressed forward . . . to centre-half, and only played in midfield, at first anyway, as a stop-gap!"

"When Ipswich plan for a game, my job is to begin the 90 minutes as the deepest lying member of



down in the summer of 1972 and returned 12 months later to sign."

Manchester City were interested and, although an ardent Rangers fan, Wark had trials with Celtic! But Ipswich and Bobby Robson won him over.

"I made a memorable debut for Ipswich in 1975, against the mighty Leeds United in an F.A. Cup Sixth Round third replay, played at Filbert Street, Leicester. I lined up as sweeper behind Allan Hunter. Leeds had the likes of Billy Bremner, John Giles, Eddie Gray, Norman Hunter, Paul Madeley, Joe Jordan and Allan Clarke — formidable opposition. But we won 3-2. West Ham denied us a Wembley place in a Semi-Final replay."

### 'Familiar'

Wark's career resumed in the reserves until 1977 when he was selected as centre-half. "I used to move into midfield when we had injuries, but always liked to move back to my familiar role when I had the chance."

But when Robson signed Arnold Muhren and Frans Thijssen, two gifted Dutch internationals, the Ipswich style of play altered.

"We used to hit the long ball to the front players who would lay it back for the midfield to run on to. Arnold and Frans would wander around staring up at the sky, wondering when they would get a touch of the ball. Not surprisingly, we changed our style to accommodate them and it suited everybody."

"I used to score with shots from

Being voted Players' Player of the Year in 1981 is one of Wark's fondest memories.



outside the box when I did find the target, but once we altered our playing ways I was able to get into the box to convert chances and also move right in on set-pieces."

In three consecutive seasons, Wark's scoring figures were 37, 23 and 23! He starred in the UEFA Cup triumph in 1981 when they beat AZ 67 Alkmaar 5-4 on aggregate, and produced a marvellous level of consistency.

"I will never forget being part of the F.A. Cup winning team in 1978, nor that UEFA Cup win. But my personal highspots are being voted Players' Player of the Year in

# 'MY IMPOSSIBLE

the midfield. And in some games — away to Liverpool for example — I have played as a third centre-back between Russ Osman and Terry Butcher.

"My big problem is maintaining this standard of scoring. It's an awesome target. People are no longer surprised if I get on the score-sheet. Now I fear that they will be more surprised if I fail to achieve at least double figures. Some fans will say that I am failing in my job if the goals begin to wane."

Wark's fear is understandable, but unjustified. Only a fool would suggest that a midfield player of such tireless application to duty can guarantee world-class goalscoring feats ad infinitum.

On the other hand, there is no doubt that Wark possesses a rare scoring talent — timing, coolness in front of goal, accuracy and explosive reactions. He is a natural finisher, yet has absolutely no desire to play as an orthodox forward.

"My goal-tally might be halved if I moved up front. I would be marked tightly, have to play with my back to goal, lay off balls for

says John Wark

other players coming through and lose my element of surprise.

"In midfield I have the freedom to arrive late in the box or finish moves I have started by capitalising on the fact that defenders close down the front runners closest to their goal and allow me that little extra space to time my attack on the ball."

Wark, in football parlance, is 'a bit special'. But then a glance at his background will reveal considerable pedigree.

He emerged from Victoria Drive School, Glasgow, to play for Drumchapel Amateurs, a team whose ranks have included such names as Asa Hartford, Archie Gemmill and John O'Hare.

An Ipswich scout spotted Wark playing sweeper for the Amateurs and invited him for a trial: "I went

Another career highlight. John joins Brian Talbot and Clive Woods to celebrate Ipswich's 1978 F.A. Cup success.







Wark scores his 23rd and final goal of the 1982-83 season and his second of the game as Ipswich beat Watford 3-1.

1981 and scoring twice against New Zealand in Scotland's 5-2 World Cup victory in Spain."

Away from football, Wark and his wife, Toulia, are now totally wrapped up in the excitement of their new baby, Andrew James Stewart, born in early July.

"It's a marvellous experience becoming a parent and certainly more than enough to take your mind off work."

For John Wark, 'work' is football and... whether his hands sweat or not... scoring goals, something that he looks likely to do throughout his career.

# STANDARD'



## FACT-FILE

BORN in Glasgow on August 4, 1957, Wark attended Victoria Drive Secondary School and played for Drumchapel Amateurs before signing for Ipswich in August, 1973. Made his first team debut against Leeds United in an F.A. Cup Sixth Round third replay in 1975 and won F.A. Cup and UEFA Cup winners' medals in 1978 and 1981. Voted Players' Player of the Year in 1981. Won his first Scotland cap against Wales in Cardiff on May 19, 1979.





# Sense, at last

**P**LAYERS who commit professional fouls next season will not automatically be sent-off.

The only directives referees will be given before the big kick-off on August 27 will be those agreed by FIFA, the world governing body.

This is the result of a meeting between the Football Association, the Football League and referees at Lancaster Gate.

The meeting was called after FIFA expressed concern that the Football League were playing the game one way, the rest of the world another way.

In short, Football League players were being sent-off for the so-called deliberate hand-ball.

F.A. secretary Ted Croker says: "FIFA are anxious that all countries should interpret the laws of the game in the same way."

## SHOOT view!

"They feel there should be no exceptional directives from any one association."

The clubs, the players, and the fans will see a curb on sendings-off as a return to common-sense.

Some players were sent-off last season for the most ridiculous breaches of regulations.

Even the referees were unhappy with many of the decisions they were forced to make because of the "get tough" approach.

Referees will be told that there is no reason why they should continue to punish the professional foul with a sending-off.

English defenders will no longer have to alter their game in European and international matches, and surely that can only improve the prospects of further success for our teams.

FIFA should be congratulated for pointing the English football authorities in the right direction.

The fans could have rapped out the same instructions a third of the way through last season as referees made themselves look stupid for several weeks.

F.A. CHAIRMAN Bert Millichip could soon be resigning as club chairman of West Bromwich Albion.

Mr Millichip, recently re-elected for a third term as F.A. chairman, announced at the beginning of last season that he intended to stand down as Albion's leader due to increasing F.A. commitments but his fellow Hawthorns directors persuaded him to stay on.

Since then his Lancaster Gate workload has become even heavier, forcing Mr Millichip to admit: "It is difficult to run a club by telephone and the present arrangement is unfair to West Bromwich."

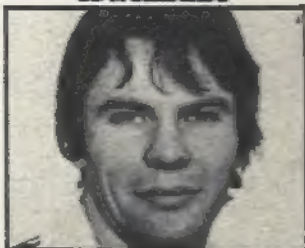
PERENNIAL F.I.F.A. official Harry Cavan has been elected president of the Northern Ireland F.A. for the 26th consecutive year.

**EX-RANGERS** utility player Alex Miller is Morton's new player-coach — a title which makes him Benny Rooney's successor as manager in all but name. It is the first venture into coaching a League club for Miller, who has just returned from a spell in Hong Kong, although he has bossed non-League Renfrew and coached Rangers' schoolboy signings.

BRENTFORD manager Fred Callaghan had 12 years as a professional at Fulham before leaving them in 1974 — and never forgot a lady who was just making his way at Craven Cottage.

His signing of midfielder Terry Bullivant is among his best. The player who cost Aston Villa £220,000 in November, 1979, and Charlton £100,000 in June, 1982, left The Valley for Griffin Park on a free transfer.

## LIFE OF BRIAN



ASTON VILLA will watch with interest the progress of Celtic's new striker, Brian McClair.

McClair, who moved to Celtic in the same week that Charlie Nicholas moved South, began his career as an apprentice professional with Villa before homesickness persuaded him to return to Scotland.

That was three years ago... Motherwell signed him immediately and last season — his first in the Premier Division — McClair topped the Fir Park scoring charts with 17 goals, including both goals in Motherwell's 2-1 home defeat of Celtic.

A MONTH before the end of last season Grimsby made an inquiry for Middlesbrough striker David Shearer and were told he'd cost them £20,000. They decided to bide their time — and hope to goodness they wouldn't be relegated. Well they wriggled free, asked again for Shearer, and now they've got him for nothing! Sounds like good business.

# Hands Walsh!

**L**UTON boss David Pleat has issued a stern hands off warning to Liverpool and any other club with plans to lure highly-rated young striker Paul Walsh away from Kenilworth Road.

Liverpool have already failed with one bid to sign the 20-year-old England international and are now planning to up their offer.

## CYRIL'S IN CHARGE

FORMER Spurs and England defender Cyril Knowles faces the toughest challenge of his career in the Fourth Division basement.

Knowles has quit as Middlesbrough's first team coach to be manager of Darlington, who nearly went out of business two years ago.

The 37-year-old Yorkshireman says: "I feel I am ready to accept the responsibility as a manager. I am under no illusions about the tough job I face but I am determined to prove myself."

BOOKINGS in Scottish soccer have risen a mammoth 600 per cent since 1965... Jack Mowat, chairman of the SFA Referees Supervisors, revealed this startling figure recently as he called for tougher punishment for field offences.

Mowat wants some changes in the present system, including an automatic two-game ban instead of one for an ordering-off. Last season 226 players were sent-off compared with 192 in 1981-82.

A YOUNG MAN who has worked a miracle during the summer was Ray Murphy, assistant secretary of Alliance League club Dagenham.

Murphy took upon himself the giant task of organising a reunion of all the players who have appeared for the club since it was formed in 1949... 11 years before he was born!

In many cases he had only a previous address to go on as he set about tracing players past. Yet he tracked nearly every one of them down and more than 200 got together at the club's Victoria Road HQ for one of the most remarkable social evenings in football.

## BERNHARD'S BONUS

**GOLFING** superstar Bernhard Langer is £13,330 better off — thanks to Rangers physio Bob Findlay. The German star twisted a nerve while practising for the recent Glasgow Golf Classic and feared he'd have to pull out of the competition. But after treatment from Bob at Ibrox, Langer (right) was not only able to take part but actually won first prize! After his victory he said: "Although I've always been a Bayern Munich supporter, I'll be keeping an eye out for Rangers' results from now on."





# off

But Pleat is in no mood to part with his prize asset, signed from Charlton a year ago for £250,000. The Luton boss says: "Stories of Paul leaving Luton are complete nonsense. All this transfer talk can only unsettle the lad."

"I'm under no pressure to sell Paul, and although I could get a lot of money for him I don't believe in exploiting people."

"He's a nice lad who's still learning his trade. What is more important is that he's learning with a good club that suits his style."

"He has two years of his contract remaining and will be staying here at Kenilworth Road."

## Happy Birthday

August 2 — Peter Eastoe (WBA) 30  
Tony Godden (WBA) 28  
Ashley Grimes (Man. Utd) 26  
Sammy McIlroy (Stoke) 29



August 3 — Ossie Ardiles (Spurs) 31  
Gordon Davies (Fulham) 28  
August 4 — Martyn Bennett (above, WBA) 22

Steve Hunt (Coventry) 27  
John Wark (Ipswich) 24  
August 5 — Steve Cherry (Derby) 23  
Ray Clemence (Spurs) 35

August 6 — Jim Arnold (Everton) 33  
John Deehan (Norwich) 26

**BRYAN ROBSON**, Arnold Muhren, Kevin Keegan and Danny McGrain are all definite starters for the World XI to play an Irish XI in Mick Martin's testimonial game at Dalymount Park, Dublin on August 5th.

## Inside football with MARK IRWIN



Showing the Corinthian spirit. Watford manager Graham Taylor (left) and physio Billy Hails really went to town during their match against the famous amateur club Corinthians. But Taylor and Hails weren't the only Watford men to be rigged out in the old-time gear. The entire team wore Victorian kit, too.

**LEEDS UNITED** may not have won much lately, but their junior team is building a fearsome reputation across the fields of Europe. In winning a European youth tournament at Rijeka, Yugoslavia, the Leeds lads completed a hat-trick of successes after previous victories in tournaments in Italy and Switzerland. Naturally a delighted Eddie Gray reckons it all augurs well for the future.

## HOWZAT FOR BAD LUCK?

**STEVE OGRIZOVIC** will be hoping for better luck in goal for Shrewsbury next season than he enjoyed when making his cricket debut for Shropshire against mighty Somerset in the Nat West Trophy recently.

Despite hammering a six off England Test bowler Vic Marks, Steve's moment of glory was short-lived when his delivery which clean bowled the great Viv Richards was called a no-ball.

To add insult to injury, Richards went on to hit 74 runs as Somerset romped home to victory.

WITH nearly two months still to go before the opening day of the season, newly-promoted Wolves had banked more than £100,000 in season ticket sales.

Concessionary offers to juniors, students and pensioners have boosted the Molineux coffers but chairman Derek Dougan is convinced that the Wolverhampton public are being won over by the new-style administration.

## Thomas changes his tune

**DANNY THOMAS** had some harsh words to say about Coventry before his recent £250,000 transfer to Spurs, but now he seems to have changed his tune.

Says Thomas: "From what I saw of the new manager in my last few days at Coventry, Bobby Gould has obviously got a lot of guts."

"He likes the idea of competition for places and I think he'll be out to increase the squad so nobody has a guaranteed place in the team as they did last season."

"I made many good friends at Coventry and I hope they do well next season. I moved to Spurs because I wanted to be with a club with lots of ambition, and I believe Spurs are aiming to become the most successful club in Britain."

ONE of Chester's keenest fans has suffered agony by having a tattoo of the club's crest across his back. But it's all to no avail — the club are changing their name!

A local railwayman, 27-year-old Karl Fenney, had the club's badge and nickname, *The Seals*, tattooed with a darning needle and ink by his brother. Chester, however, have changed their name to Chester City and their badge will now be the city's wolfhead coat of arms.



**DUNDEE** goalkeeper Bobby Geddes has signed a new contract and seems set to take over from last season's first choice Colin Kelly.

**NEW MANAGER** at Fourth Division Hartlepool is Tommy Docherty's son, Mick. He takes over from former Tottenham, Derby and Dundee striker John Duncan, who left to become manager of Chesterfield.

Docherty, formerly a defender with Burnley and Sunderland, leaves his job as youth team coach at Roker Park, which he has held for four years.

## Game, set and match

A FAMILIAR courtside face at Wimbledon recently was Norwich manager Ken Brown, anxiously watching his tennis-playing daughter Amanda carrying Britain's hopes in the women's singles competition. And although going out in the Second Round, she did manage to capture the Ladies' Plate, for all competitors knocked out in the first two rounds.



**WHY** do Liverpool like to use Ireland's national airline Aer Lingus to fly to foreign games? Well, luck of the Irish must be a reason... for the Anfield club have been using Aer Lingus for around 15 years and have NEVER lost a two-leg European tie whenever the airline has taken them to the away game. They even have a regular pilot, Capt. Barney Groghan, who has become one of their most fervent fans.

## Sandfield International

IN OUR May 14 issue we presented a competition in conjunction with Sandfield International in which we featured incomplete statements about football and readers had to decide which of the two possibilities given with each statement best fitted it.

Having examined all entries the judges decided that the best received were sent by Michael Bryant of Swindon, Wilts, and Stuart Cackett of Crowborough, Sussex. Both win a week receiving soccer tuition at the famous Sandfield International Soccer School and both lads will be able to take a friend to share the experience with them.

Best answers to the questions were judged to be: 1-A; 2-B; 3-B; 4-A; 5-B; 6-B; 7-A; 8-B; 9-B; 10-B.

## Did you know?

ONLY seven current members of the Football League have faced all 91 other clubs in League matches. The seven clubs are Barnsley, Brentford, Bury, Grimsby, Lincoln, Northampton and Portsmouth. Bradford City have faced everyone except for Ipswich, Huddersfield have only to meet Mansfield and Port Vale have played all but Sunderland.





## Le Coq Sportif: the secret of the 8 studs.

**Z**ico is becoming a legend these days. In the top class of South American players, this Brazilian joins the great names in football history. When Zico plays it's beautiful to behold. Thousands of miles away, Glenn Hoddle of Tottenham and Wim Kieft, Europe's best goalscorer of 1982, spark off thunderous applause from the terraces. When Hoddle and Kieft play they mean business.

### The secret of Zico Glenn Hoddle and Kieft:

Yet these three players have one thing in common: their boots. Le Coq Sportif's Roma 8, with exclusive novel features that set it apart. Just count the studs: there are 8, 2 at back and 6 at the front, every one scientifically placed to reduce pressure to a minimum. Roma 8s are more comfortable and less tiring. What's more, they do not sink so much into the ground: an advantage in the wet. Finally there is greater adhesion. The foot does not slip so much on the ground.

### 8 studs and that's not all:

Roma 8s have many other strong points, such as the raised shank at



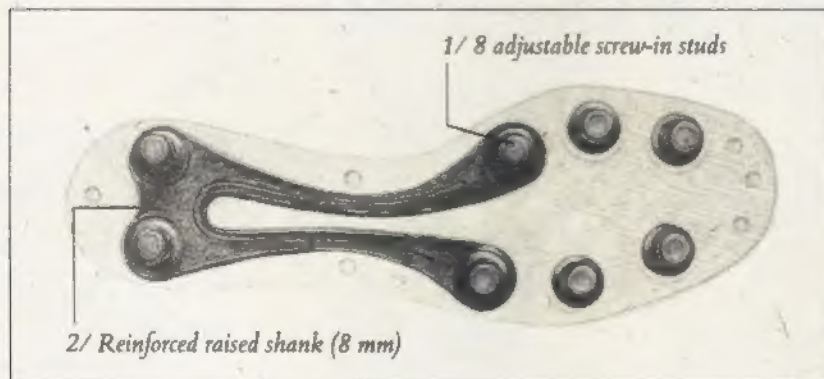
Mandarine

the back, for example: the heel is raised by 6 mm and this gives it added drive to gain that tenth of a second which spells victory. And there's another thing. The Roma 8 laces right up to the front of the foot and thus holds it securely yet comfortably. The special cut of the padded stiffener that protects the Achilles tendon yet gives full freedom of movement to prevent blisters. An inner sole reduces stud

pressure and moulds to the contours of the foot.

These are just some of the Roma 8's outstanding features, otherwise nothing has changed. Neither the quality of the carefully selected full grain leather nor the sturdiness of a sole designed to cope with the most extreme weather conditions. Le Coq Sportif has given the Roma 8 the benefit of all the experience it has in these matters... for you can never do enough to merit the confidence of such champions as Zico, Glen Hoddle and Wim Kieft.

What really matters is to keep lengths ahead at all times. A golden rule Le Coq Sportif shares with a great many champions all over the world.





**J**OE Jordan, the former Leeds and Manchester United centre-forward, will become one of Luther Blissett's biggest fans when the black striker makes his debut for AC Milan.

The Scotland striker, who put the fear of physical punishment into most central defenders in the First Division, believes that promoted Milan are on the verge of big things and that Blissett's arrival from Watford is a piece of perfect timing for the 25-year-old England international.

"The fans will love him out here," said Joe, who has now mastered Italian after two years with Milan. "And the club will do everything possible to make him happy. I have enjoyed my two-year spell here so much in Italy with AC Milan that I and my family are staying. We all really love the lifestyle."

Jordan will be lining up for UEFA Cup contenders Verona next season, thus fulfilling his hopes of staying at the top and remaining in Italy. And he is sure to be one of Blissett's keenest observers after losing his place in the side to the £1 million man from Watford.

"To be honest I was not that surprised when they let me go and went for new players. It is a bit like that here in Italy. But Milan have been a fantastic club for me and a fantastic experience too."

### 'Strengths'

"Luther will find just the same. The manager will make sure the team plays to Luther's strengths. They will be made to work on it in training all the time, from the start of the season."

"That's what they did with me when I first came. I couldn't have asked for more. I have had a really great time."

Joe's final appearance in front of the AC Milan fans was against city rivals Inter.

"They gave me a great cheer when I got out of the dugout to warm up. I did a few runs to get loosened up, but then our centre-half got injured and so another sub was used and I didn't play."

"It's just one of those things. A

bit of a shame because I'd have liked to put in a farewell show for the fans, but it doesn't always work out."

After two years sampling the allegedly ferocious tackling and professional fouling of the Series A

# Jordan's message to Blissett... 'IGNORE BRUTAL MYTH'

in Italy, Joe was surprisingly happy to give this bright message to Blissett.

"The fans and the referees are fine and the fouling and hard defending is no worse than in England or anywhere else. The marking is a bit tighter, but you adjust to that. The game is not brutal, as is often believed in Britain."

"I think Luther will do well because Milan are a young team with a lot of good, improving young players."

Popular with the reporters and fans alike, Jordan has stopped considering himself as a candidate to make a late dramatic Peter Withe-style return to the Scotland team. He laughed and said: "No, I've given that idea up now. I'm just keen to enjoy my football and look after my family."

At the present that means settling down with Verona, and maintaining his reasonable goalscoring form.

"I've never been a prolific scorer, even in England, so my record here is quite decent really. Goals are a wee bit harder to come by in Italy you know."

Last season, when he suffered a knee injury at a vital time but later recovered, Joe managed ten goals in 30 League appearances for Milan to finish second in the goal charts to Battistini, who scored 11 in 37.

"I've still got plenty to play for and plenty to enjoy yet."



Jordan is confident Luther Blissett will be just as successful with AC Milan as he was last season in the First Division with Watford.





**Chelsea new-boy  
Eddie Niedzwiecki  
believes playing in  
London is ...**

**C**HELSEA have signed one of the finest goalkeeping prospects in British football — Eddie Niedzwiecki.

After selling him to the London club, Wrexham boss Bobby Roberts said: "Eddie is as good as any youngster I've seen."

"I played with Gordon Banks at Leicester when Peter Shilton was coming up through the reserves. That kind of experience makes you biased about goalkeepers, but Eddie has that very special kind of talent."

This Welsh-born son of Polish immigrants has certainly needed that talent. His first two full campaigns of League football brought successive relegations. Last season, as Wrexham toppled into the Fourth Division, he set the worst kind of record — sent-off three times!

"On the first occasion, it was for handball outside the penalty area, on the second, it was after a game against Doncaster when I said something to the referee. It was stupid of me and counted as a sending-off. It was just frustration building up."

"The third dismissal just about summed up my season. It was a crazy situation at Newport. Their player came through and, as I came out, his shot went wide. But we still collided and the referee then booked me for ungentlemanly conduct and awarded a penalty!"

"I judged the kick perfectly — one of my best saves — but the referee said someone had moved

and ordered the kick to be retaken. I threw down the ball in disappointment and was sent-off!

"I'm not in the business to let in goals and that was the final straw. Now I want to start enjoying my football again. I cannot think of a better place than Stamford Bridge or a better manager than John Neal to begin all over again."

### 'Terrific'

"It was John who signed me at the Racecourse Ground from school, and I've enjoyed a terrific relationship with him. He lifted my sights from the moment I came into football. As a 16-year-old, he took me to European Cup-Winners' Cup ties in Poland, Sweden and Belgium."

"Those were marvellous experiences that gave me the taste for the big time. With Chelsea, I know that's just what I'm going to get — they are a big club going places again. Just look how active John Neal and the chairman have been this summer!

# 'JUST CAPITAL!'

"After the desperation at Wrexham, it is going to be like a breath of fresh air again. I'll be playing with my old mate Joey Jones; learning from great players like John Hollins and Peter Bonetti; living in the best football city in the country — give me London every time."

"As luck would have it last season, we played a number of Friday night games in London when Chelsea were at home the following day. Every time, I stayed over and went to Stamford Bridge. I knew of Chelsea's interest and I could not wait to be part of their plans."

"As they battled against relegation last season, I followed their results closer than those of any other club."

"Now I can enjoy my football

again and I hope that I can establish the same kind of relationship with the fans at the Bridge as Joey has achieved. It will be fantastic just to hear a crowd again!

"Despite their problems, Chelsea's determination to make a success of next season is just the kind of atmosphere that I need," says the lean, lithe six-footer.

"I want to play against a back-ground of challenge, ambition and crowd support. I'm going to find all of those qualities at Stamford Bridge."

## Trevor Steven's message to Bobby Robson is ...

**T**REVOR Steven will step out for the new season as one of the most exciting newcomers to the First Division.

At 19, and worth £300,000 to ultra-ambitious Everton, he has the football world at his talented feet.

This brilliant midfield teenager says: "I can hardly believe it. First relegation to the Third Division with Burnley; then my life turned upside down with a transfer to one of the great clubs in the game."

"When I went to Goodison Park for the signing, it was the first time in my life that I had seen the ground apart from television shots. It's tremendous! Now I can't wait for the new season to get started."

The first thing that Trevor wants known is that he is English. He comes from the border town of Berwick — where the local team play geographically in England but

# 'I'M ENGLISH!'

are members of the Scottish League.

"I am English. By three miles in terms of distance and 100 per cent in blood," he emphasises. "If I ever do well enough to attract an international manager, I want it to be Bobby Robson."

He also possesses level-headed, realistic ambition. "It was no surprise when Burnley's new manager, John Bond, called me into the office and told me I was wanted at Everton. They had been looking at me for a year or so."

"I took their continued interest as a compliment. When the offer



Steven is brought down by Sheffield Wednesday 'keeper Bob Bolder last season.



# SIGNINGS LOOK AHEAD TO 1983-84



**O**UT of the frying pan at Coventry City and into the fire at Luton Town? "Yes, that is the way that some people will look at it — but I think that manager David Pleat and his directors are getting a lot of things right at Kenilworth Road," counters Les Sealey.

The Hatters' newly signed £120,000 goalkeeper joins a team that walks a tightrope. Last season they scored goals thick and fast yet conceded them at a rate that very nearly produced relegation.

Sealey now becomes last line in a defence that leaked goals to the point of disaster, but says defiantly: "Luton's defensive record doesn't frighten me."

"If the goals go in because of mistakes, there is only so much a goalkeeper can do. But I believe in my ability and so do Luton. Now I've signed, I can reveal that they would have been happy to go higher to get me!"

## 'Spirit'

"I know that I'm joining a club that gives tremendous value to the public. I'm just as sure that this comes about because of the spirit, attitude and determination behind the scenes at Kenilworth Road."

"It seemed that everyone in the game was willing Luton to stay up at the end of last season. Even if they had gone down, no one could have reproached themselves — Luton went out and had a go!"

"They showed the kind of ambition that I'm looking for in signing such fine young players as Paul Walsh and Paul Elliott. Then you look at players like Brian Stein, Ricky Hill and David Moss and realise just how much talent there is at the club."

"I could have gone to Leicester but Luton were the club that came in first. When I shook hands with David Pleat that was the deal done as far as I was concerned."

"In terms of basic wages, I'll be

was made — especially for so much money after I had played in a relegated side — that was the greatest compliment of all."

Goodison manager Howard Kendall is firmly committed to restoring Everton to equal Merseyside partnership with Liverpool. As a player, he never settled for second best; as a manager, he moves only for the finest talent, and Trevor Steven is in that class.

## 'Attacking'

"Mr Kendall made it absolutely clear that I featured in his first team plans for next season. I am an attacking player and wanted to be sure that this is how he regarded me. He assured me that attack is where he wants to see me involved."

"He was an all-rounder himself and that is the style of play he has instilled into Everton's side. To be only an attacking player at Burnley was too much of a luxury — in attack and defence, we all had to

help out each other — so I'll be covering plenty of ground in Everton's cause."

Steven stamped a rare talent on the Second Division last season. Despite Burnley's struggles, he finished with 11 goals from midfield — and that statistic tells a story of its own.

"The previous season, my first, I scored three goals in 37 League appearances as we won the Third Division Championship. I was a new boy and I tended to lay the ball off when I was often the best placed player."

"Last season I was more outright in my approach. If I saw a chance, I went for it. I was just as deflated as everyone else at the club when Burnley went down — our two Cup runs took their toll — but I finished reasonably satisfied with my personal level of consistency."

"But it seems crazy now that a side which included Brian Flynn, Martin Dobson, Willie Donachie, Billy Hamilton and Tom Cassidy should have gone down."

# 'LUTON'S DEFENSIVE RECORD DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME' says LES SEALEY



getting just the same at Luton as I did at Coventry. I had to get away from Highfield Road although all ten years of my professional career have been spent there."

"Sorry to leave? Sorry to leave the Coventry that was but happy to leave the club there now!"

"It is no secret that I was a great admirer of Dave Sexton. I thought that he was treated shabbily and the general lack of ambition was very sad. One fact seems to say it all."

"In my opinion, the club I've left rather than the one I've joined



Sealey's new Luton team-mate Ricky Hill.

will be the one in the fire. Too many experienced, proven players have left Coventry."

The team in which Sealey embarked on March, 1982 on a long run of matches was very different from the one he quit 15 months later. "In 35 matches from that starting point, I kept 21 clean sheets," he points out with pride.

That was Sealey at his very best. The same calibre of goal-keeping for Luton can help make a side with sparkling attacking skill a threat in every competition. "If Luton can now defend as well as they go forward, it is going to be some side!"



Steven teams up with Everton manager Howard Kendall.



For Sheffield born  
Howard Wilkinson  
it's ...

# HILLSBOROUGH REVISITED

**A** quick flick through the record books will show you that Howard Wilkinson didn't make much of an impression during his playing days with Sheffield Wednesday.

In his two seasons with the club he made only 22 appearances and scored three goals before moving on to play for Brighton.

And yet the same Howard Wilkinson must have made quite an impact off the field at Hillsborough, because when the Wednesday directors sat down to nominate a successor to Jack Charlton, his was the name they chose.

It would be fair to say that most folk in Sheffield were somewhat taken aback by the appointment. But if you take a closer look at Wilkinson's credentials, his appointment is hardly surprising.

In a very short space of time he has built such a reputation as a coach of flair and ability that Bobby Robson offered him a four-year contract with the England Youth and Under-21 teams, and County offered him a three-year contract as manager.

"They were both tremendous offers and both very inviting, but when the chance to join Wednesday came along I just couldn't say no," says Wilkinson.

"As a small kid in the city I began a love affair with Sheffield Wednesday that has never ended. The emotional pull of the club I have always supported was too strong to resist."

Wilkinson is only too aware that he has a mammoth task ahead of him.

Not only was Jack Charlton a highly popular figure in Sheffield, and one who commanded colossal respect, but in having taken Wednesday to an F.A. Cup Semi-Final and within a few points of promotion to the First Division, he made supporters believe he was on the verge of restoring greatness to the club.

His successor will be expected to put the icing on the cake.

"I don't like to talk about potential, because a club is only as good as its present status, not its past achievements," says Wilkinson. "All I can say is that I will be doing everything possible to get Sheffield Wednesday into the First Division."

"That is the rightful place for a club in such a big city, but that place will only be won by sheer effort from everybody at the club. It's my job to make sure I get that effort," said Wilkinson, who made a positive start.

He sacked Charlton's assistant manager Maurice Setters, and then had talks with three of his senior players who all want moves, goalkeeper Bob Bolder, England Under-21 defender Mark Smith and striker Andy McCulloch, who has since gone to Crystal Palace.

"I can't say yet what changes will have to be made, but you can be sure I'll do things my own way and in my own time," said Wilkinson, who could never have envisaged being in such a privileged position when he was merely the club's occasional right-winger.

"No, I never dreamt at that time of actually managing Sheffield Wednesday, but as I got more and more to think about this side of football I confess the idea did cross my mind that this was the one club I would like to serve."

"I've been very happy with Notts County and I would like to thank them for giving me the opportunity to cut my teeth in football management. But I could hardly refuse the club whose ground I could virtually see from the house where I was born."





# Paolo Rossi

PONY





**GRAEME  
SHARP**  
Everton



**SHOOT!**



Notts County defender Brian Kilcline keeps a close watch as Ipswich's Steve McCall tries to find a route to goal.



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**I**'VE just spent my summer holiday sunning myself on the Corsican beaches reflecting on a season where I bagged more gold than one of the famous local bandits.

And along with the soccer riches came experience which the world's most valuable precious metals couldn't buy — all at the tender age of 18!

It was Aberdeen's greatest season, winning the Scottish Cup and the European Cup-Winners' Cup to say nothing of pushing Dundee United and Celtic in the League race until the last hours of the season.

Then for me there was the astonishing experience of being vice-captain of Scotland's Under-19 team in the World Cup in Mexico. No wonder I finished 1982-83 exhausted, but very content.

From my early teens it was always odds-on that I was going to carve out some kind of career from football, although I never thought for a second that I would achieve so much so soon.

Though I say it myself, I am India's most honoured footballer! India? Yes, I was born there when my late father, a tea planter,

took the family. I came to Scotland when I was two and went on to learn the rudiments of the game at Airyhall Primary School in Aberdeen.

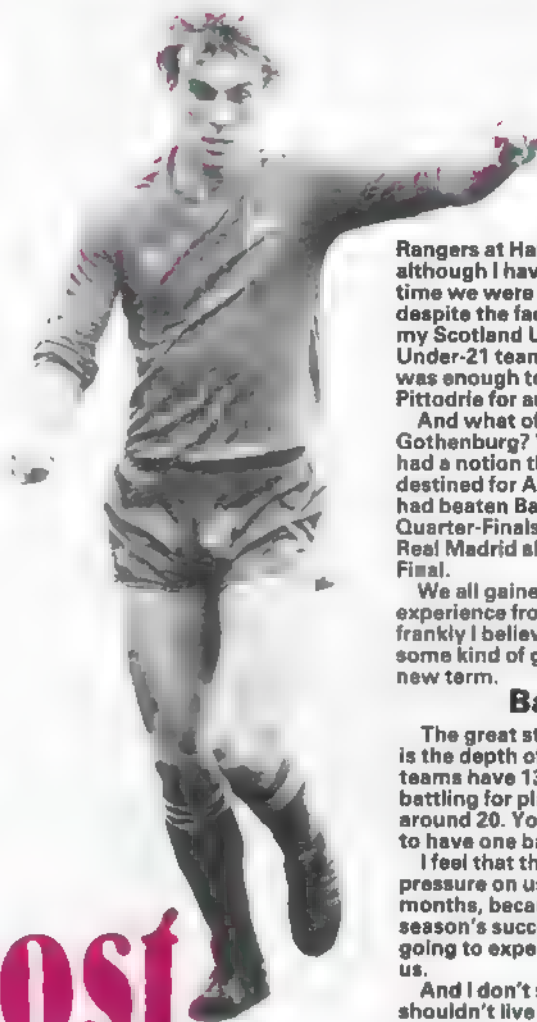
I was a midfield player up until the age of 15 but after a year as an S-Form player with The Dons, Pittodrie youth team coach Len Taylor suggested I try sweeper in a match in which we were taking a bit of a pounding.

That was the start of something big because it meant that I could play in either position. And such is the quality and depth of our current squad, the more versatile you are, the better it is.

I stayed on at school to sit my 'O' levels — I passed eight — and Highers. I would advise any young aspiring player to continue their education, because you never know what the future may hold. I

**Neale Cooper of Aberdeen says...**

# 'I'm India's most honoured footballer!'



Rangers at Hampden this year, although I have to admit that this time we were not so convincing despite the fact that a goal from my Scotland Under-19 and Under-21 team-mate Eric Black was enough to keep the Cup at Pittodrie for another year.

And what of that night in Gothenburg? You know, I always had a notion that the trophy was destined for Aberdeen after we had beaten Bayern Munich in the Quarter-Finals. And we outran Real Madrid all the way in the Final.

We all gained a lot of valuable experience from that triumph and frankly I believe we could be on for some kind of grand slam in the new term.

## Battling

The great strength of Aberdeen is the depth of our squad. Other teams have 13 or 14 players battling for places but we have around 20. You just cannot afford to have one bad game.

I feel that there will be a lot of pressure on us in the coming months, because after last season's successes our fans are going to expect even more from us.

And I don't see why we shouldn't live up to those expectations. We certainly have

carried on even though I played my first big game at 16.

I'll never forget it! It was against Kilmarnock at Pittodrie and I went on to become a regular.

It was at that time that I went with the Scotland Youth team to the European Championship Finals in West Germany, the highlight of which was a 1-0 win over England in front of 40,000 fans, with a morning kick-off.

I missed out on the Scotland victory in the tournament the following year in Finland, but for a very good reason.

I was finishing my first full season as an Aberdeen first team player instead, playing in the Scottish Cup Final where we beat Rangers 4-1 after extra time. And unbelievably, I scored — although the final kick was no more than a tap-in.

Of course we repeated that Scottish Cup Final win over

the players to dominate Scottish football for quite some time.

We played a lot of games last season, but I wouldn't have it any other way.

I played all year and frankly I was shattered when I left with the Scotland team for Mexico two days after the Cup Final. We did some training in the Olympic Stadium in Amsterdam en route and Eric Black, Davie McPherson and myself — all participants at Hampden — were really struggling.

But after our acclimatisation stay in Colorado I felt great and in the end was satisfied with my performances in Mexico.

And talking of Mexico, let me say that I think the 1986 World Cup Finals there will be a huge success despite the doubts of certain people. I didn't realise the World Youth Cup was such a major affair until we went, but the Mexicans promoted it brilliantly.

I see no reason why 1986 should not go the same way, and I hope Scotland can be part of it. And if that was to mean me too then maybe even my gold-digging season of 82-83 would be eclipsed.

In the meanwhile, excuse me while I get out the polish!

**Putting on the style!** The top-hatted Cooper celebrates Aberdeen's defeat of Real Madrid in the European Cup-Winners' Cup Final with goalscorers Eric Black (left) and John Hewitt.





# COMING SOON!

**B**RIAN Clough, whose battles with Larry Lloyd used to make national headlines, can't wait to renew their explosive relationship.

Clough fined, suspended and repeatedly clashed with the former England centre-half during Lloyd's five years as a player at Nottingham Forest.

But when he heard that Lloyd had been appointed manager of local rivals Notts County, Clough was the first to express his delight.

"If Larry does as well for County as a manager as he did for me as a player then they have made a tremendous signing," says Clough.

"I think it is the most interesting managerial appointment for a long time and if Larry wants any assistance or advice from me, he only has to pick up the telephone."



## TOP OF THE BILL CLASH — IT'S...

was some consolation to know it had nothing to do with lack of ability.

"That's all in the past now, though, and the same applies with the five happy years I spent at the City Ground.

"The knowledge and experience I gained during my time with Wigan and Forest has been invaluable but I look upon my playing days with Bristol Rovers, Coventry and Liverpool in the same light.

"Football is a continuous learning process and although I've got confidence in my ability to do a

good job for Notts County, I'm not fool enough to think I know it all.

"I've still got lots to learn and I couldn't have a better teacher than Jimmy Sirrel. His understanding of the football business is second to none — and I want a share of his knowledge."

Lloyd is County's youngest manager and although he will have charge of training and tactics Sirrel remains in overall control of the football side of the club.

It's a system that worked well during Howard Wilkinson's three years at Meadow Lane and County, having won promotion and spent two seasons establishing their First Division status during that period, are now optimistic they can press ahead.

"Now that we have appointed Larry, the sails are up and we are ready to go," said Sirrel.

"As I see it, he will simply slot into the position Howard vacated and I've every confidence in his ability to do the job. He has the right pedigree having played at the highest levels and had a go at management — which is important."

# LLOYD V. CLOUGH

Lloyd, 34, is no stranger to clashes with authority. Outspoken and strong-willed, the former Bristol Rovers, Liverpool and Coventry City defender did a magnificent job for Forest during their most successful days of League Championship and European Cup glory.

But he also said what he thought, often clashing with the equally direct Clough during an explosive five years.

But now, after showing what he can do by helping Wigan Athletic to promotion from Division Four, Lloyd recognises that he has really

stepped into the managerial big-time.

Lloyd says: "When you've been on the dole for three months, scratching around for a job, you are grateful for anything.

"But to suddenly find myself back in football with a First Division club — I honestly could not ask for more."

After taking Wigan Athletic to promotion in his first full season in charge, Lloyd again clashed with authority and found himself out of work.

"I was close to despair after what happened at Wigan but it

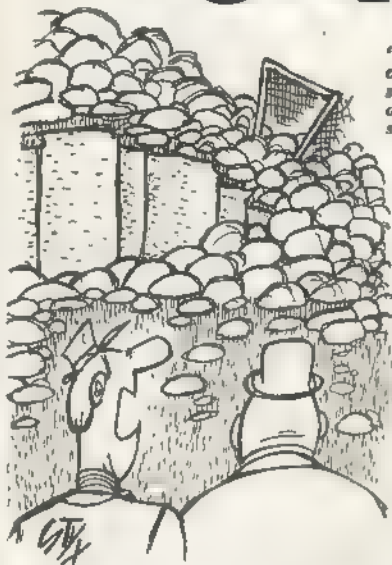


Lloyd enjoyed five successful years as Forest's centre-half, including victory in the 1979 League Cup Final.





# FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"When our centre-forward actually scored the ground opened up and swallowed him."



"He's a football scout. Always likes to keep an ear to the ground."



"After eight months on the list we've finally had an enquiry. Seems some team in Siberia are interested in you."



"It's part of our economy drive. I want you to knit a net."

"I told you he's getting big headed."

## Winners AND Losers

	P	L	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
1. Portsmouth	46	27	10	9	74	41	91		
2. Cardiff	46	25	11	10	78	50	88		
3. Huddersfield	46	23	13	10	84	49	82		
4. Newport	46				54		78		

### CARDIFF CITY

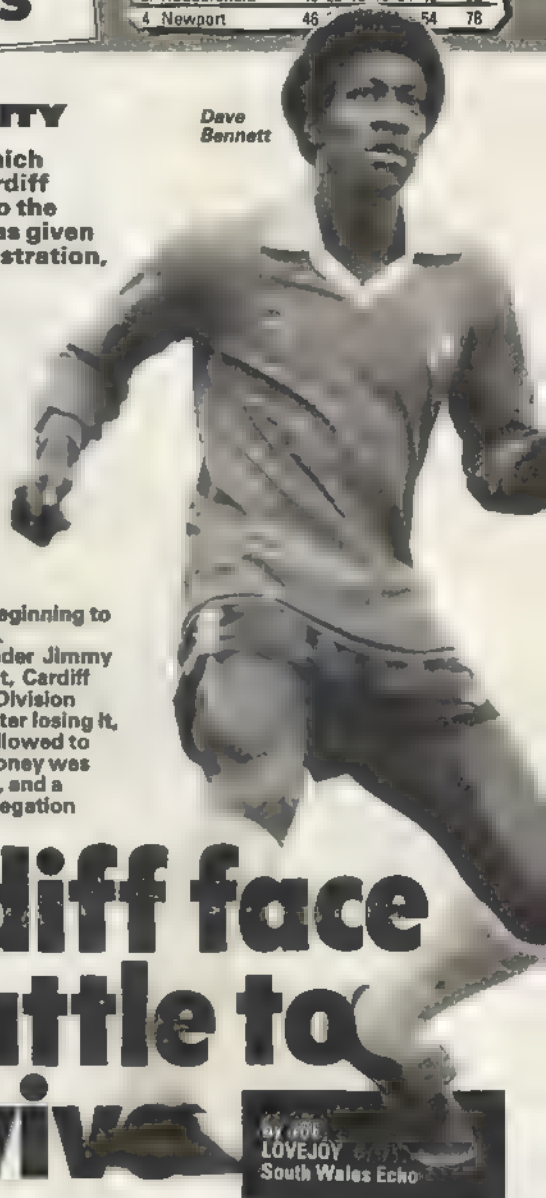
Dave Bennett

**T**HE euphoria which surrounded Cardiff City's promotion to the Second Division has given way to an air of frustration, bordering on disillusionment in South Wales.

A year after being relegated to Division Three Cardiff bounced straight back, as runners up to Portsmouth for the Championship.

It was a remarkable achievement for Len Ashurst's band of free-transfer cast offs, but the Welsh club's supporters are beginning to get that *deja vu* feeling.

Seven years ago, under Jimmy Andrews' management, Cardiff regained their Second Division place just 12 months after losing it, but a good team was allowed to break up, little or no money was spent on replacements, and a depressing series of relegation



## Cardiff face a battle to survive

by ROB LOVEJOY  
South Wales Echo

### PORTSMOUTH

**T**EN years ago John Deacon bought his way into the Portsmouth chairmanship with a pledge — to take the famous old club back into the First Division inside three years.

In the event it proved more difficult and painful than the Southampton property magnate had imagined.

Instead in three seasons Pompey were in the Fourth and fighting for their financial lives; but that is history and the step which Deacon promised then is now, many believe, just a season away.

At last it seems Pompey's chairman, who now owns the club, may reap the dividend he has bought for his persistence and willingness to pour some two million pounds into chasing his dream.

Having appointed Bobby Campbell as the sixth manager of his chairmanship early last

## Pompey

summer, Deacon backed his judgment by providing the cash to bring Alan Biley, Neil Webb, Ernie Howe and Dave Thomas to Fratton Park.

They started the season well, but when they looked like faltering in the final run-in, Deacon again dug into his pocket to sign Birmingham's Kevin Dillon and young Nicky Morgan from West Ham to understudy the Biley-Billy Rafferty strike partnership.

The result was that although Pompey had to wait until the final match before they could call themselves Champions, they ultimately finished five points clear.

Yet as soon as the celebrations died away, Campbell and Deacon moved to build on their success with startling speed.

They outpaced two First Division clubs to persuade Coventry's England Under-21 striker Mark



# Third Division promoted

The prospects facing the Second Division newcomers — by the men who follow them closest.

battles followed.

So what's new? Len Ashurst, who now sits in the managerial chair once occupied by Jimmy Andrews, is experiencing the same problems.

Having spent just £10,000 on players to get the club out of Division Three, he now finds the till is empty when it comes to strengthening his squad to equip Cardiff to compete at the higher level.

Indeed, with City £1½ million in debt, and the bank pressing the directors to reduce the overdraft, Ashurst may be forced to sell rather than buy.

At present he seems likely to go back into the Second Division with a weaker side than he had in the Third.

Jeff Hemmerson, whose 25 goals helped secure promotion, will be out for quite some time as a result of the serious knee injury sustained in the final game of the season at Bristol Rovers.

Veteran goal machine Bob Hatton has been offered only reduced terms, which qualifies him for a free transfer, and star winger Dave Bennett has been sold to Coventry for a fee which must be decided by tribunal.

"Obviously I'm looking for replacements," says Ashurst. "But where do you find free transfer players who can score 20 goals a season and who will sign on for £200 a week?"

To date, Cardiff's only summer signing has been goalkeeper Gary Plumley on a free transfer from Newport.

With four other regulars refusing to sign on again, Ashurst admits he has no idea what sort of side will start the season at Charlton.

The prospects are hardly encouraging for a club bidding to re-establish themselves as Wales' top club.



by PAUL CLARK  
Daily Examiner

Division Two.

Even some of manager Mick Buxton's closest managerial rivals were unstinting in their praise of the side he meticulously assembled with infinite patience and intelligence.

For instance, Cardiff City boss Len Ashurst said that Town were: "The best team in Division Three."

Huddersfield thoroughly deserved their success and equally Buxton deserved enormous credit. Huddersfield have come a long way under him. Since 1978 he has led the once-great club out of the doldrums, and his inspiration and drive have fired two promotion

— all of whom have been promised a chance to prove themselves in the higher grade — but they showed last season that they could live with better-class opposition.

In both Cup competitions Huddersfield made an impressive mark and, but for a controversial penalty at Highbury, might well have knocked Arsenal as well as Leeds United out of the Milk Cup.

Cup ties can be notoriously poor form guides to a 42-match League programme, but in Huddersfield's case they showed clearly the squad's relish and desire to taste higher class action every week.

The Second Division is not entirely unknown to all Huddersfield's players. Goalkeeper Brian Cox, who had a marvellously consistent season, 'Player of the

## Buxton's boys have the class to succeed

### HUDDERSFIELD

**H**UDDERSFIELD Town last season won more than just the promotion they coveted so much.

They won, too, the praise and admiration of fans and clubs countrywide for their refreshing commitment to attacking and entertaining football.

With three or four months of what proved a very colourful campaign still to go, Third Division managers were, almost without exception, tipping Huddersfield for

triumphs.

Spirits at Leeds Road are sky-high and the club can look forward optimistically to life in the Second Division.

It's ten years since Town were last there and football has undergone many changes — both financial and cosmetic — since then. However, with the uncompromising and totally dedicated Buxton in charge, Town can be justly confident of more good times ahead.

The Second Division will present a new challenge to the vast majority of the promotion squad

Year' David Burke, Phil Wilson and Steve Doyle have all played there.

As for Keith Hanvey, at 31 the oldest member of the team, he is eagerly awaiting the Second Division for the first time in his career and for ex-Liverpool striker Colin Russell and versatile Mark Lillis it should provide a perfect stage on which they will underline their potential.

## can make Deacon's dream come true

by MIKE NEASOM  
The Portsmouth News

Neil Webb fires in a shot against Aldershot during the F.A. Cup tie last season.

Hateley that Fratton Park had more to offer.

In the end it cost them £150,000 to sign Biley's new partner and his arrival means 32-year-old Rafferty will move on after refusing a new contract.

But Deacon, now aged 72 and absolutely determined to make his dream come true, is willing to spend even more should Campbell feel it is necessary.

Alan Ball has arrived as player-coach and there's even been talk of Kevin Keegan or Kenny Dalglish arriving in time for the new season. Such a superstar signing would undoubtedly pack Fratton Park to its limits.

There is a passion in the city which many have bracketed with that on Merseyside and Tyneside — and Liverpoolian Campbell reckons he and his chairman are the ideal partnership which can create a second Anfield on Solent.





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# ASK THE EXPERT



## Wrong hat-trick

Has any top-class player in Britain ever scored a hat-trick of own goals?

NICK STAPLES, HOVE

● I'm not saying it's never happened, Nick, though I certainly can't find any trace of anyone suffering that embarrassment.

But a couple of sides have scored a hat-trick of own-goals in post-War League games.

West Bromwich collected a free-gift of three own-goals when they beat Sheffield Wednesday 5-4 on Boxing Day, 1952.

And on Christmas Day, two years later, there was a similar number in Carlisle's 7-2 win over Rochdale.

## 'Leaky' Blackpool

Which club has conceded the most goals in the English First Division in a single season?

SEAN REEVE, NALESWORTH

● That unenviable record is held by Blackpool, Sean, who let in 125 goals in the 1930-31 season. Surprisingly, though, they still escaped relegation.

Next worst is the 121 conceded by Ipswich when they finished well bottom in 1963-64 — ironically only two seasons after they'd been League Champions.

## SHORT PASSES

● Sunderland have provided the record gate at both Tottenham (75,038, F.A. Cup, 5th March, 1938), and Arsenal (73,295, Division One, 9th March, 1935).

(TIMOTHY WATSON, Slough)

● Alan Hansen played 88 League games for Partick Thistle before joining Liverpool for £100,000 in May, 1977.

(KARINI ARIS, West Malaysia)

## NOW — TRY TO BEAT THE EXPERT

"Which club," asks JAMES LARVAN of Rotherham, "has won an FA Cup Final on four different grounds?"

Well, that clearly had to be one which started collecting the silverware well before Wembley opened — but, though I could think of several possibilities, I still couldn't be sure just which without taking a peep at the records first.

And these confirmed James' claim for Aston Villa. The wins,

incidentally, were at Kennington Oval in 1887; the old Crystal Palace ground (1895, 1897, 1905 and 1913); Stamford Bridge (1920); and Wembley (1957).

Nice one, James!

● Every week we give you the opportunity to put the Expert on the spot by firing at him a question you believe he can't answer. Enclose a separate envelope with the answer. If he has to open it, you win £5!

## Spot the difference

See if you can spot the ten differences between these two cartoons.



ANSWERS: 1. Ball missing from bag. 2. Tear on trainer's shirt. 3. His book number has changed. 4. Player's badge changed. 5. Colour of shorts changed. 6. Pane of glass changed. 7. Extra window in stand. 8. Keeper's shorts different. 9. No ball. 10. Ref's sock different.

## Nat the lion



Which player had the nickname of "The Lion of Vienna"?

KARIM LALANI, WEST SUSSEX

● Bolton's Nat Lofthouse it was, Karim — a brilliant, battling centre-forward who clocked-up 30 goals in his 33 full games for England.

His most memorable international was against the then very powerful Austrian side in Vienna in May, 1952.

Lofthouse's performance, including a superb long solo run for the 3-2 winning goal — after which he was left prone and battered on the ground — earned him the nickname of "The Lion of Vienna" from the next morning's newspapers, and it stuck for the rest of his fine career.

All Lofthouse's career was spent with Bolton, for whom he scored 256 goals in his 452 League games.

# Do you know Bobby Robson?

A special SHOOT quiz that will test your knowledge of the England manager. It's as easy as ABC. We give you the choice of three answers, only one of which is correct. You need seven or more right to prove you know Bobby Robson well.

- In which year was he born?  
a) 1933; b) 1940; c) 1936
- Where in the North-East was he born?  
a) Chester-le-Street; b) Langley Park; c) Washington
- With which club did he start his League career?  
a) Newcastle; b) Aston Villa; c) Fulham
- How many times did he play for England?  
a) 30; b) 20; c) 40
- Which club did he join the year after they won the F.A. Cup?  
a) West Brom; b) Blackpool; c) Newcastle
- Who was England's captain when he played in the 1958 World Cup?  
a) Johnny Haynes; b) Billy Wright; c) Alf Ramsey
- With which club did he finish his playing career?  
a) Ipswich Town; b) West Brom; c) Fulham
- Who did he succeed as manager of Ipswich Town?  
a) Alf Ramsey; b) Jackie Milburn; c) Bill McGarry
- In which year did he lead Ipswich to their F.A. Cup Final triumph?  
a) 1978; b) 1976; c) 1974
- Who were England's first opponents when he took over as manager?  
a) Finland; b) Denmark; c) Greece

## ANSWERS

1: a) 1933; 2: b) Langley Park; 3: c) Fulham; 4: a) 30; 5: a) West Brom; 6: b) Billy Wright; 7: c) Fulham; 8: c) Bill McGarry; 9: a) 1978; 10: b) Greece



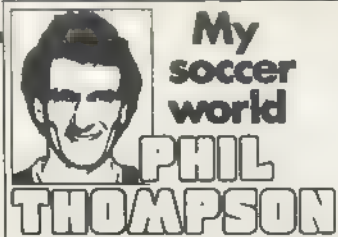
**WHETHER I'm in the Liverpool line-up for our opening League game against Wolves on August 27th depends on how I perform in our pre-season warm-up games.**

This doesn't just apply to me. Every member of the first team squad faces the same big test. Only if we pass are we assured of a place.

We begin the run-in on the same level. Last season's performances count for nothing. It's how we shape up in the games that have been arranged to try us out — and any new ideas our new boss Joe Fagan has dreamed up — that will decide the make-up of the side that kicks off the campaign.

As usual, training has been like an army battle course. Even after a short lay-off, every muscle aches following a hard session at Melwood, our training ground.

The first problem is getting back



looking forward to it like a dose of toothache. I just hope it turns out to be a lot more enjoyable than the one we played in this time last year.

It took place in Malaga. We were conned into thinking we were due to play on Friday and Sunday, with Saturday as a break to recover and go sightseeing, but instead found ourselves playing two games on successive days, on the Saturday and Sunday.

Spaniards are usually very friendly, but on this occasion they were so fanatical about seeing the

mighty Liverpool beaten they treated us like enemies, and we met a great deal of ill feeling.

That even included the referees, who let the opposition get away with murder. The Spanish hatchet-men were given the freedom to try to chop our front men into little pieces.

They'd have succeeded, too, if our lads hadn't learnt to look after themselves through years of experience against European teams.

I got off comparatively lightly. The Spanish forwards either spat at me or tried to elbow me in the ribs!

We won the first game and the tournament was settled in the second.

It began at the incredible time of half-past ten in the evening, and

# THE BIG TEST I MUST PASS...

to fitness, shedding any extra pounds put on during the holiday. I'm lucky in this respect because no matter how much I eat my waistline stays the same.

During the season we only train in the mornings, but during the summer after a break for lunch we go on through the afternoons, and end up so shattered all we can do is flop out at home and watch TV!

The programme of matches arranged this year is one of the stiffest I can remember. We begin next Wednesday (August 3) with a trip to Belfast to play Manchester United at Windsor Park in a testimonial for Billy Drennan, secretary of the Irish F.A.

Both clubs have tremendous support over there, and the crowd is sure to be a big one. With a lot of pride at stake, the game will be a real spectacle, a dress rehearsal for the Charity Shield game at Wembley between United as F.A. Cup winners and Liverpool as Champions.

After Belfast we travel to Rotterdam, Holland, for a tournament also involving Dutch Champions Feyenoord, Belgium's Standard Liege and SV Hamburg, the West German side who beat Juventus in the European Cup Final.

With such tough opposition, the tournament is going to be difficult to win, but the big bonus is that it will draw large crowds. Football is a business, with lots of expenses, and clubs need to grab every chance of boosting their income.

As each club is scheduled to play only two games, it means we'll miss out on meeting one of the other three. At Liverpool we're all hoping we get a crack at European Champions Hamburg, who we beat in the Super Cup a few years back.

After Rotterdam, we fly to La Linea in Spain for another tournament, and to be honest I'm

ended well after midnight. As the scores were level at full-time, the result was settled on penalties, and at first we took it hard when we lost.

But on seeing the trophy our disappointment disappeared!

It was so ridiculous, we'd have been embarrassed to put it in the Anfield trophy room. On its top was the figure of a water-skier!

Let's hope this year's tournament is played in a better spirit, and that we collect a piece of silverware worthy of a place alongside the Championship trophy and the Milk Cup.



## Coppell back — and hungry for glory

**THE good news for Manchester United fans is that Steve Coppell is back to full fitness and hopes to play a leading role in his club's Championship challenge next season.**

The England International winger missed much of last season through injury, including the climax to the campaign when they beat Brighton in a replayed F.A. Cup Final.

Coppell says: "I've now been at United for the best part of ten years and I reckon this is the best side we've had at Old Trafford in that time."

"The quality of players we now have is of an exceptionally high standard. I'm confident that there are more honours to come and I hope to play my part in the coming months."

"Having won one trophy, the fans will be expecting us to add a second this season. Fortunately, it's the same attitude in the dressing room."

Yet although Coppell is now back to fitness, he is not expecting to be an automatic choice for United next season.

"I want no favours," he insists. "If I'm good enough to hold down a regular place in the team, that's all well and good. But if I'm not playing well I don't expect to be handed a shirt."

"All the talk about my being indispensable to the side was proved to be incorrect last season. I knew that would be the case, because such observations were both meaningless and rather embarrassing as far as I was concerned."

"The last few months have been pretty frustrating for me. I wasn't only ruled out of the Cup Final, but also missed England's latest games."

"I must admit that during the F.A. Cup Final I felt I was on the outside looking in. I was obviously delighted that the lads won, but I was a bit pensive thinking that I could have been there with them."





**F**RENCH Champions Nantes 'did a Liverpool' last season. They topped the table from September 21st until the end of the season, won the title with a month to spare, won more and lost fewer matches than anybody else, scored more and conceded less goals than anybody else,

## Champions OF Europe

# NANTES DO IT THE LIVERPOOL

skipper Max Bossis was voted Player of the Year and striker Vahid Halilhodzic topped the goal charts!

The strange thing is that 'Les Jaunes' were way down the list of pre-season favourites, behind a Bordeaux squad packed with World Cup stars, defending Champs Monaco, cheque-book waving Paris St. Germain and eternal favourites St.-Etienne, who were then ripped apart by a series of scandals.

### Critics

By contrast, Nantes hadn't made a single signing for the 82-83 campaign and critics felt they would continue to miss club institution Henri Michel — the ex-Nantes stalwart now being groomed to take over from Michel Hidalgo as national team manager.

But manager Jean-Claude 'Coco' Suaudeau must take a lot of credit for bringing on home-grown youngsters such as Toure, Ayache and Tusseau to blend with his more experienced pros.



And if Nantes have always pleased the eye with attractive, entertaining soccer, Suaudeau has added that touch of realism and meanness that turns good-looking also-rans into handsome winners.

The 27 goals scored by Yugoslav striker Halilhodzic have been vital to the side's success, but a lot of credit is due to wingers Baronchelli and Amisse, who provided his ammunition.

In midfield, Muller and Adonkor accompany the explosive talents of Jose Toure, tipped for great things in the future.

At the back, goalkeeper Bertrand-Demanes conceded only 29 goals all season and was well-protected by a back four that won critical acclaim last term.

Bossis has been a sensation since moving from left-back to sweeper, and his understanding with veteran stopper Patrice Rio has been little short of uncanny, while full-backs Ayache and Tusseau are both on the fringe of the national team.

After masterminding Nantes' sixth League triumph, manager Suaudeau is now determined to help 'Les Jaunes' make a name for themselves in the European Cup.

"It's a disgrace that no French side has won the European crown," he comments.

"I believe that at the moment, French football in general and Nantes in particular are capable of changing that."

## WAY

### RUN TO THE TITLE

Home	Opponents	Away
F A		F A
3-1	Mulhouse	1-1
3-0	Bastia	1-1
4-0	Bordeaux	2-1
5-1	Brest	1-1
2-0	Paris SG	1-2
1-0	Lyon	2-1
0-0	Laval	3-1
3-0	Strasbourg	0-2
3-0	Toulouse	1-0
2-3	Metz	4-0
1-0	Lille	2-0
1-0	Auxerre	1-1
4-0	Sochaux	1-1
1-0	Rouen	0-1
2-1	Tours	4-0
0-0	Monaco	2-2
4-2	St Etienne	1-0
2-1	Nancy	2-2
5-1	Lens	2-2

Total record P38 W24 D10 L4 F77 A29 Pts58

### SCORERS:

27 Halilhodzic, 13 Toure, 8 Amisse, 7 Baronchelli, 5 Bossis, 4 Poulain, 3 Picot, Muller, 2 Rio, Tusseau, 1 Agerbeck, Adonkor, Tucak (Metz og)

# O'Connor brothers clinch it for Athlone

**A**FTER winning the League of Ireland Championship for the first time in their history in 1980-81, Athlone could only finish fourth the following season.

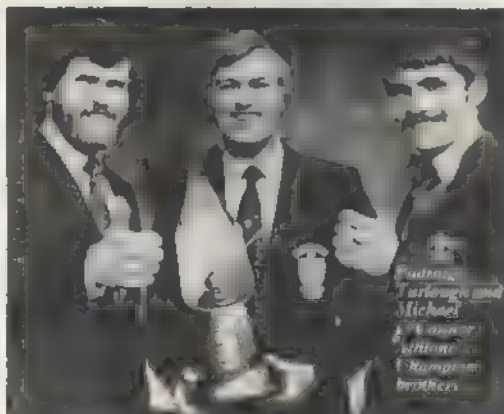
But the three O'Connor brothers, manager Turlough and players, Michael and Padraig, combined their talents to clinch the title again last season against all expectations.

At the beginning of last season the club lost five players including ace goalscorer Eugene Davis, who had scored 23 League goals in 80-

81. The bookies quoted them at 20-to-1 for the 1982-83 campaign.

However, Turlough O'Connor didn't panic. He picked up bargains in Mark Meagan and Larry Murray from Waterford and Eddie Byrne from Shelbourne.

But his master stroke was converting former defender Noel



Larkin into a centre-forward. Noel, the longest serving player at the club, had played under 12 managers at St Mel's Park, but never as a striker. He ended the season the League's leading scorer with 18 goals.

Athlone's only slip in 26 League games came against Shelbourne, when they lost 4-1. They also won the League Cup for the third time in four years.

Only 16 players were used in the League campaign and four of those — Jim Grace, Stefan Feniuk, Noel Larkin and Padraig O'Connor — were ever-present.

### 1982-83 CAMPAIGN

League — Champions  
FAI Cup — Quarter-Final  
League Cup — Winners

### HONOURS

FAI Cup — Quarter-Final  
League 1980-81; 1982-83;  
League Cup, 1980, 1982, 1983.  
Tyler All-Ireland Cup, 1979.

### EUROPEAN RECORD

1975 UEFA Cup — beat Valerengen (Norway) on 4-2 agg; lost to AC Milan on 3-0 agg.

1981 European Cup — Drew 3-3 with KB Copenhagen. Went out on away goals rule.

### LEAGUE GOALSCORERS 1982-83

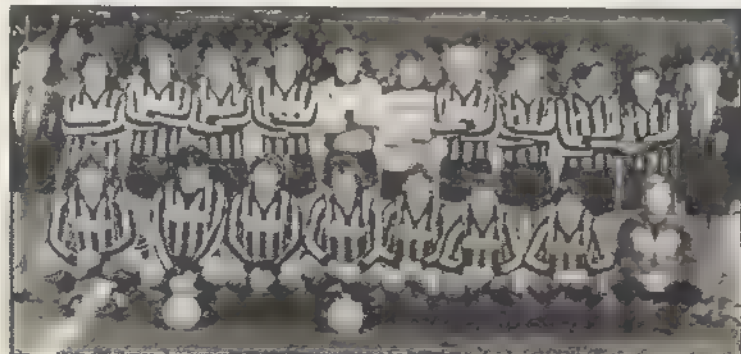
18 Larkin; 11 M. O'Connor, 10 Salmon; 7 Wyse; 5 Byrne; 2 P. O'Connor, Murray 1 Feniuk, Meagan, McCue, Carroll, Conway plus 1 OG

### REGULAR LINE UP WITH LEAGUE APPEARANCES

Jim Grace 26, Stefan Feniuk 26, Tom Conway 24, Padraig O'Connor 26, Harry McCue 23, Mark Meagan 25, Derek Carroll 16 (3), Larry Wyse 24 (1), Michael O'Connor 22 (1), Noel Larkin 26, Eddie Byrne 14 (2)

### How they won the League

	Home	Away
Bohemians	3-1	1-0
Drogheda Utd	2-1	1-0
Dundalk	2-0	1-0
Finn Harps	3-0	3-3
Galway Utd	4-1	1-1
Home Farm	3-1	4-1
Limerick Utd	2-0	2-0
St Patrick's	3-1	2-1
Shamrock Rov.	2-1	1-1
Shelbourne	2-1	1-4
Sligo Rovers	4-1	2-2
UCD	5-2	2-0
Waterford	4-0	1-1





**ONE of the biggest disappointments for me this summer was not winning a first England cap in Australia.**

A groin injury prevented me from sitting on the bench as substitute for the last game in Melbourne — the closest I came to making the breakthrough.

At least I made the trip as a late, late replacement for Villa team-mate Peter Withe, cruelly injured playing against Scotland at Wembley a few days before the party left England.

Just being there with a full England squad was the opportunity of a lifetime.

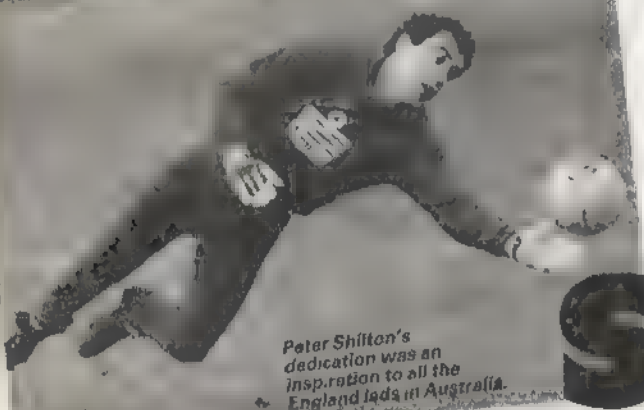
It gave me the chance to see first-hand how manager Bobby Robson works and what he expects from his players.

At least one Villa player did make his England debut on the tour, goalkeeper Nigel Spink.

**Soccer  
as I  
see it**



**GARY SHAW**



Peter Shilton's dedication was an inspiration to all the England lads in Australia.

# SHILTON SPARKED SPINK

Even though he's been back home a month, Nigel still can't really believe his good fortune in making the trip as Peter Shilton's understudy.

When Villa reported for pre-season training last week Nigel was still talking about Australia!

Like me, Nigel is realistic enough to know he only went on tour because other players and goalkeepers were either injured or had club commitments.

To come on for Peter Shilton and win his first full cap in the last game was a real bonus.

Nigel, a 24-year-old former plasterer's apprentice, has certainly made a sensational rise to fame.

In just 12 months he's moved from the relative obscurity of

Villa's reserves to the full England team.

"If you had told me last Christmas I would replace Jimmy Rimmer in the Villa goal and then play for my country I would have punched you on the nose and warned you not to be cheeky," Nigel told me over a cup of tea the other day.

Fortunately Nigel's feet are still placed firmly on the ground. He realises 45 minutes for England doesn't make him the leading candidate to take over from Peter Shilton.

Far from it. In fact working with Peter 'Down Under' has made Nigel aware of just how much he still has to learn about his trade.

Nigel wasn't the only one amazed at Peter's application, dedication and hard work. We all watched and admired the way he

pushed himself on tour.

When most of the lads were relaxing around the pool, Peter was performing a punishing routine of exercises.

"Peter can teach me so much," says Nigel. "A lot of the training he does is familiar to me because I suppose most 'keepers follow similar patterns.

## 'Fantastic'

"But he does far more agility and reflex work than I normally do. That man is fantastic."

Working with Peter Shilton inspired Nigel so much he has returned to Villa with a New Season's Resolution — to do extra training every day.

Peter goes back in the afternoons at Southampton to do specialised goalkeeping work and

you only have to watch him in action to see how much he has benefited from it.

Most of Peter's routines need one or two players to help, so the Villa lads can expect to be asked to volunteer on a rotary basis.

Naturally I'll take my turn to help Nigel and improve my own game at the same time.

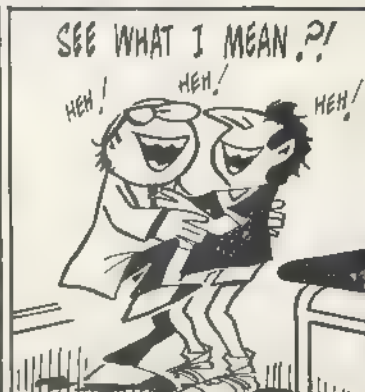
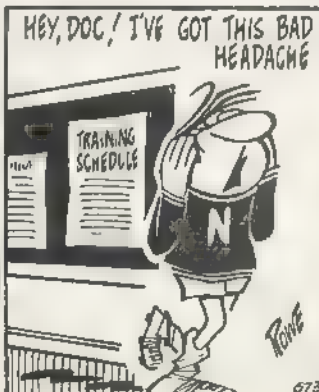
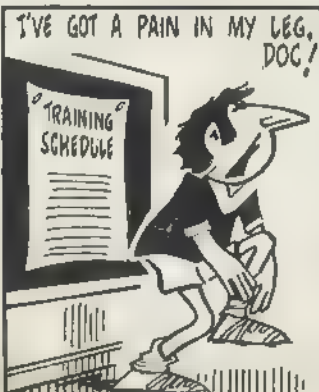
I achieved my best ever goals tally for Villa last season, 25 overall, and aim to improve on that in 1983-84.

I must score at a consistent rate if I'm to stake a claim for a place in the England side.

Paul Manner, Peter Withe, Paul Goddard, Paul Walsh, Cyrille Regis, Trevor Francis, Tony Woodcock and Luther Blissett. There's no shortage of challengers for England's strike force.

If I don't make the breakthrough during next season I never will!

**NOBBY**





# Hay can make the sun shine on Celtic



**D**AVID Hay realises that Billy McNeill will be a tough act to follow as he becomes the sixth manager in Celtic's 95-year history.

The respect commanded by McNeill among the players and the supporters at Celtic was colossal. Hay, a former team-mate of McNeill, will have to win them all over in a season where a spotlight of sun-strong proportions will be rarely away from Parkhead.

Helping the former Scotland World Cup midfield star will be his new assistant Frank Connor, a former goalkeeper with the club in the 60's.

Connor, formerly Celtic's reserve team coach, took over as manager of Berwick Rangers for a short spell before being named as assistant to Jock Wallace at Motherwell at the start of last season.

Now Hay and Connor are very much the 'New Firm' behind Celtic as they attempt to push the controversial departure of McNeill behind them and set about restoring the Celtic image.

## Mistaken

Hay, who also had a spell in English football after a £225,000 transfer from Celtic to Chelsea in 1974, is a quiet fellow off the pitch, but his softly-softly approach should not be mistaken for an easy-going attitude.

He is a thoroughly determined individual and there will be changes in the playing staff at Parkhead if he doesn't get what he demands.

Ironically, as with McNeill before him, Hay has only one full season of club managerial experience behind him. Whereas McNeill had a short stint with Clyde and then an entire season with Aberdeen before joining Celtic, Hay spent his introduction to the managerial world at Motherwell two seasons ago.

The club had lost five out of five League Cup-ties when they decided to sack former Scotland manager Ally MacLeod.

His first game in charge of



During the early 1970's David Hay was one of Celtic's finest players. Now he is back at Parkhead as manager.

Motherwell was a match against Dundee United — and his side drew 1-1 to stop the rot.

They went on to win the First Division title and a place in the Premier Division. However, the following summer, Hay quit the Fir Park post and was linked with a job in America.

The proposed deal fell through because of work permit problems and now the bad luck that has dogged his career, remember, he had to finally quit the playing side of the game because of a persistent eye injury, could turn in his favour.

He didn't rush into the Celtic job. He asked for time to think things over before eventually accepting.

Hay, a publican in Paisley, realises he has taken on a man-sized job at Parkhead, but he has never shirked from a challenge in his career and he's not going to start now.

There were no fanciful promises when Hay agreed to the job that will bring him upwards of £25,000-per-year plus bonuses. If he's successful he'll probably earn more than Billy McNeill at Manchester City!

The other Celtic managers have been Willie Maley, Jimmy McStay, Jimmy McGrory, Jock Stein and, of course, McNeill.

That is an awesome roll of honour for anyone to follow.

**J**OCK Stein doesn't normally get too excited or too enthusiastic about performances by Swedish-born players.

But he makes an unusual exception in the case of Richard Gough, the 21-year-old Dundee United defender who has shot to stardom thanks to some powerful displays for Scotland at right-back since being introduced in the 2-2 European Championship draw with Switzerland at Hampden Park last season.

"That lad is a winner" stresses Stein. "He's the sort of player who would be welcomed into any team."

"He's ambitious, enthusiastic, talented, powerful and has an enormous will to win. I'm just glad we capped him before Sweden took the opportunity."

Gough's performances in an otherwise disappointing British Championship and his outstanding displays in the searing heat of the three game tour of Canada have probably ensured him a lengthy spell in the international line up.

## Stein so proud of Scotland's SUPER SWEDE!

If the right back spot is not his best position, he's more suited to the middle of the defence, but he can't get an outing there for Dundee United due to the sheer consistency of the men in possession, Paul Hegarty and David Narey, his international colleagues.

Gough was born in Stockholm of a Swedish mother and a Scottish father. Charlie, who played in England with Charlton. He was brought up in South Africa before deciding to have a go at a football career in Scotland. Remarkably, he was granted a trial with Rangers, but wasn't signed.

"I was a bit dejected after that," said Gough. "I returned home and thought I wasn't good enough."

However, the versatile youngster decided to try again with Dundee United.

"This time, thankfully, everything went well and manager Jim McLean offered me a contract. I was delighted to sign and things have really gone my way recently."

It doesn't seem that long ago, however, that Gough's career was in tatters. Two winters ago he walked out on the Tannadice club and decided to return to South Africa.

He vowed not to come back. But he soon changed his mind and

McLean welcomed his return. Last season brought its rewards for Gough in the shape of an international breakthrough and a Premier Division Championship medal.

Stein says: "A lot of people said our end-of-season tour of Canada was a waste of time and money, but when you look at the progress of Richard Gough you appreciate the value of such a venture."

"I've been highly impressed by the boy. Nothing's been too much trouble for him and, of course, his displays have been getting better and better."

Gough even took time off from defensive duties to score his first goal for the international team in Edmonton as the Scots won their second game 3-0.

Tannadice manager McLean — the man who rescued Gough's career when he was at his lowest ebb and plagued with self-doubts — says simply: "He's a dream to work with. He is assured of one of the brightest possible futures in the game."





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Spurs and England star Gary Mabbutt goes past Arsenal's Paul Davis as Peter Nicholas stands by to challenge.





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# BRILLIANT PROSPECTS— with a lot to learn

**B**UT for injury last season, 18-year-old Mitchell Thomas could have been starting this coming term as an established First Division full-back with Luton Town.

Instead, he has to start all over again and convince manager David Pleat that he is worth a regular first team place.

Thomas was making his fifth League appearance against Norwich City at Kenilworth Road on April 2nd when he sustained a serious knee injury which more or less ended his season.

"He'd made quite an impact after playing against Coventry (twice), Spurs and West Ham," says John Moore, Luton's youth team coach.

"He has a lot of potential and could go a long way in the game. But he must be prepared to work a lot harder.

"Mitchell tends to think he has already made it but he has still got a lot to do.

"I know he has more to give and



Mitchell Thomas has already proved his worth to Luton boss David Pleat.

if he continues to work hard his game will improve."

Thomas was taken on by Luton as part of a Government Youth Opportunities scheme and after only three months was signed on apprentice forms.

"He certainly impressed us with his work-rate in those three months," continues Moore.

"You could see the lad was determined to grab his opportunity and we had no hesitation in signing him."

Thomas got his big break last year when he was taken on a pre-season tour to Sweden.

"Another apprentice was meant to be going, but his parents were on holiday and he was staying with an aunt. Unfortunately he couldn't get into his house to get his passport," says Moore.

"So David Pleat took Mitchell instead. He impressed in the games he played in Sweden and the club offered him professional terms.

"Thomas can play in either

full-back positions, so he could be a big asset to the club, but his weakness at the moment is over-confidence.

"He is happy enough on the ball and passes accurately but lacks concentration and gets caught out of position.

"This is one area of his game where he must improve.

"The knee injury he received in our 1-0 defeat by Norwich should teach him not to take anything for granted in football.

"Mitchell came back and played in the reserves towards the end of the season and his attitude seemed to have improved.

"Mind you, the coaching staff could be at fault because we look at Thomas as a hardened professional instead of allowing for his youth.

"This coming season could be a crucial one for Mitchell. He must show in pre-season training that his attitude is right and push himself hard to get a regular spot in the first team.

"If he does then I am convinced he has the ability to make the grade in the First Division."

## THE LIKELY LADS

A week by week series featuring the brilliant young stars poised to make a major breakthrough in the First Division and Scottish Premier Division during the 1983-84 season. This week: Luton and Man. Utd.

**P**AUL McGrath showed when he came into the Manchester United team towards the end of last season that he will be a serious contender to Gordon McQueen and Kevin Moran at the heart of the defence.

But according to Eddie Harrison, youth team manager at Old Trafford, he still has a long way to go before he can hope to replace the international defenders.

"He has the potential to become another Alan Hansen," says Harrison. "But he is very naive in terms of technical control and positioning.

"Paul certainly has the ability to be as good as the Liverpool and Scotland defender but he must buckle down and work on his weaknesses."

Towards the end of the 1982-83 season, McGrath played in the United defence in place of the injured Kevin Moran and would have been the obvious replacement in the F.A. Cup Final against Brighton had the Republic of Ireland international failed to



Paul McGrath's recklessness is one of the defects he must lose from his game before he can become a Manchester United regular.

respond to treatment.

"He showed during those League games before the Final what potential he has," continues Harrison.

"Paul was a late developer. Born in London, he moved to the Republic of Ireland as a young boy.

"He was spotted playing for St. Patrick's Athletic and signed for United in April, 1982.

"So you can see how much he has developed in the time he has been at Old Trafford. But he must continue to work hard.

"There's no denying he has a lot

of natural ability but his close control lets him down.

"He also gets a bit carried away and wants to dive in and tackle instead of maybe just holding back a little and waiting for the right moment to attack the ball.

"Paul is a tall lad who dominates in the air but he takes too long to control the ball on the ground.

"This is an important part of a central defender's job and one aspect of his game that we must work very hard on.

"There's no denying his attitude is right because from his first day at Old Trafford he has wanted to get on and improve his game.

"McGrath has often returned for extra training and it showed with the way he battled into the first team when I thought it would take a little longer.

"Having spoken to him since the end of last season, I know he wants to sample more of the first team atmosphere.

"I am convinced he will make a lot of headway next season and will be a serious threat to McQueen and Moran.

"But the penny must drop and he has got to realise that his tremendous potential will only be realised if he is prepared to iron out the rough edges in his game."

**NEXT WEEK** **more future stars to look out for**



**Sportswriter Norman Giller continues his trip down football's memory lane to the land of post-War soccer giants.**

## Assessment:

**F**OOTBALL was all about fluency, fun and flamboyance when Joe Mercer and Malcolm Allison were in harness at Maine Road.

At the peak of their partnership, Manchester City captured the Second Division Championship, the League title, the F.A. Cup, League Cup and European Cup-Winners' Cup. This stunning sequence of success came in a five-year span between 1965 and 1970.

After years of standing in the shadows of Manchester United, City were suddenly no longer just the other team from Manchester.

## The Manager:

**T**HE alliterative reference to the fluency, fun and flamboyance of City's football can also apply to the men who led City to peak performances.

Manager Joe Mercer was the wise old man of soccer, cheerful

**MANCHESTER CITY 1968-69**  
Back Row (left to right): George Heslop, Mike Doyle, Alan Oakes, Harry Dowd, Arthur Mann, Glyn Pardoe, Tommy Booth, Tony Coleman.  
Front Row: Dave Connor, Bobby Owens, Colin Bell, Tony Book, Francis Lee, Mike Summerbee, Neil Young.

even in a crisis and accustomed to ~~manoeuvring~~ as a tigerish player with Everton, Arsenal and England.

He shrewdly selected the young, ambitious Allison as his coach. Big Mal was head-strong and a creator of controversy but he was also one of the most inventive and imaginative thinkers in the game.

Together, Mercer and Allison brought the best out of each other

# SATURDAY GIANTS

# THE MAESTROS MAINE



and from the Manchester City players. They were two lovable characters who put the smile on the face of football.

## The Defence:

**C**ITY'S defence was not the most dominating there has ever been, chiefly because Mercer and Allison had built a "going forward" team.

Harry Dowd, Ken Mulhearn and, later, big Joe Corrigan, took turns in patrolling the goal-line at the back of a defence that could be tough and tight but which was sometimes suspect under pressure.

Joe Mercer and Malcolm Allison gave City something to smile about.

Tony Book, a demanding captain who blossomed after a late entry into League football, formed a formidable full-back partnership with the stylish Glyn Pardoe.

The always-dependable Alan Oakes had two long-running partnerships at the heart of the defence, first with George Heslop and then with the talented Tommy Booth.

## The Midfield:

**C**OLIN Bell was the master of the midfield. He made the team tick with his intelligent running, passing and positioning and well earned his thoroughbred title of 'Nijinsky'.

Mike Doyle's contribution in the engine room was equally important but less creative. He had







## They Said It:

**MIKE DOYLE:** "It seemed all my life I had to live with having the name Manchester United stuffed down my throat. Suddenly I was able to get my own back by pointing to all the City had won. It was a great feeling for everybody at Maine Road."

**MALCOLM ALLISON:** "When that City team was really motoring, there have been few better sights in British football. I would have backed them to beat anybody at their peak. The balance and structure of the side was just right."

**SEN. MATT BUSBY:** "Joe War remained my close friend through all the years of our rivalry. He and Malcolm worked wonders at Maine Road. The team they built spoke volumes for their approach to football. At its peak, their City team had great style and flair — just like Joe and Malcolm."

Glyn Pardoe (no 11) scores the winner in the 1970 League Cup Final v WBA



# OF ROAD



a balanced mixture of strength and skill, winning the ball with firm tackles and then using it with accuracy and speed.

The elegant Neil Young was a skilful go-between, moving rapidly from a midfield position to a striking role. It was his superbly-struck left-foot goal which won the F.A. Cup for City in 1969.

## The Attack:

**C**ITY'S forward line was an explosive mixture of skill, speed and power.

Francis (Franny) Lee and Mike Summerbee sliced through defences with rapier-like thrusts, Tony Coleman buzzed busily on the left wing and Neil Young

continually came smoothly through to poach goals.

In the early rise of City, Johnny Crossan and Dave Connor both served the attack with distinction.

But the "Big Three" of the City revival movement were Lee, Bell and Summerbee. Their combined talent turned a good side into a great one. All three were rewarded with England caps.



## Their Record:

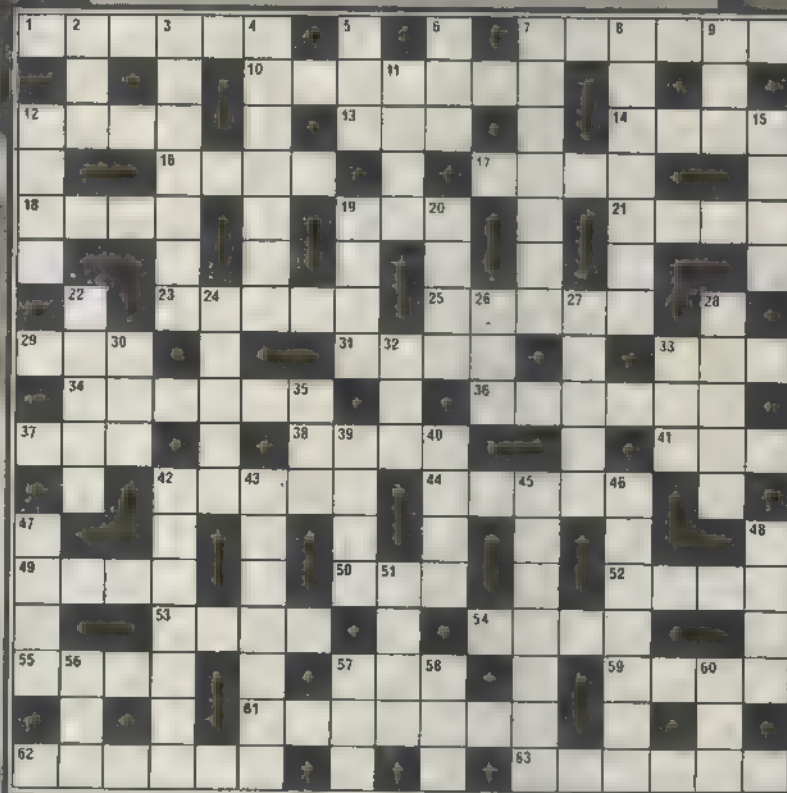
**C**ITY won the Second Division Championship in 1968, took a year to find their feet at the top table, then captured the League crown in 1968, the F.A. Cup in 1969, and did the double of League Cup and European Cup-Winners' Cup in 1970. Their League title win was the most significant. They beat Manchester United into second place by two points and so stopped their deadly rivals from completing a unique League and European Cup double.

Next week:

**Celtic's  
'Lisbon Lions'**



# Shoot's SPECIAL SUMMER CROSSWORD



Tottenham stalwart Steve Perryman (above) is featured in question seven down, while the identity of the Ipswich striker pictured on the left is revealed by clue 36 across.

**ANSWERS ON  
PAGE 32**

## ACROSS:—

- (1) Scottish League runners-up, 1982/83 (6)  
(7) Gerry Armstrong, N. Ireland striker, (6)  
(10) Paul —, Norwich defender (7)  
(12) A — transfer involves no finance whatsoever. (4)  
(13) — Clemence, Spurs 'keeper. (3)  
(14) The 1st, 2nd, 6th & 5th letters of Sunderland. (4)  
(16) Deep —; ground of Preston. (4)  
(17) — 'land, ground of Rochdale. (4)  
(18) Port —, Third Division team. (4)  
(19) Paul Coo —, Ipswich 'keeper. (3)  
(21) See 41. (4)  
(23) Jumps... like the 'keeper to reach a high ball! (5)  
(25) Steve —, Southampton striker. (5)  
(29) — Doneghy, Luton defender. (3)  
(31) Part of the foot which might be used to back — the ball (4)  
(33) "Weep" from the initials of Rangers, York & Cardiff. (3)  
(34) & 11 Down) Ground of Notts County. (6)  
(36) Mich —, Ipswich Town striker. (6)  
(37) The —, nickname of Brentford. (3)

- (38) The 2nd, 5th, 7th & 6th letters of Newcastle (4)  
(41) & 21) Watford defender. (3)  
(42) Takes a break after a hard game! (5)  
(44) The Hawt —; WBA's ground. (5)  
(49) One of 22 that make up the First Division, for instance. (4)  
(50) A cutting tool from three letters found in Swansea. (3)  
(52) Jim Mc —, Coventry City striker. (4)  
(53) Take one letter away from Leeds and make "fish" from the remainder. (4)  
(54) Carl — United; from Brunton Park. (4)  
(55) East — ling, Scottish Second Division club. (4)  
(57) Ray Ran —, Manchester City defender. (3)  
(59) Examination for fitness, for example. (4)  
(61) — Ground, Barnsley. (7)  
(62) See 28 Down. (6)  
(63) Jan —, Watford midfielder. (6)

## DOWN:—

- (2) George B — y, Stoke defender. (3)  
(3) Ground of Southampton. (3 & 4)  
(4) Their ground is Stamford Bridge. (7)  
(6) — United; Scottish team from Somerset Park. (3)  
(8) Sammy Mc —, Stoke midfielder. (3)  
(7) Steve Perryman is the Spurs one. (7)  
(8) Wilf —, Watford full-back. (7)  
(9) — wick City; The Canaries. (3)  
(11) See 34 Across. (4)  
(12) The number of clubs in the Scottish League whose names begin with the letter 'S' (4)  
(15) Wolves striker. (4)  
(19) Nickname of Peterborough United. (4)  
(20) City in which Liverpool won their first European Cup Final (4)  
(22) Leighton —, Sunderland winger. (5)  
(24) — Gray, Leeds United manager. (5)  
(26) — Trafford; ground of Manchester United. (3)  
(27) — Martin, West Ham defender. (5)

- (28) & 62 Across) Manchester United and England midfield player. (5)  
(30) Sammy —, Liverpool midfield player. (3)  
(32) The 7th, 6th & 4th letters of Boothferry Park (Hull). (3)  
(33) Award for an international appearance. (3)  
(35) Players can skid on such a surface. (3)  
(39) The 3rd, 1st, 5th & 6th letters of Starks Park (Raith). (4)  
(40) Gary —, Aston Villa striker. (4)  
(42) Graham —, Spurs defender. (7)  
(43) Peter —, Southampton 'keeper. (7)  
(45) Bobby —, Rangers midfield player. (7)  
(46) Reach up, as in exercising. (7)  
(47) Le — ter City, The Filberts. (4)  
(49) Collin —, Sunderland striker. (4)  
(51) The 8th, 4th, 2nd & 1st letters of Wolverhampton Wanderers. (4)  
(56) Number of teams in the First Division whose names start with the letter "A". (3)  
(57) Coventry City, The — Blues. (3)  
(58) — castle United, The Magpies. (3)  
(60) Swan — City play at the Vetch Field. (3)



**SHOOT takes time off from tales of success to talk to those...**

# For whom the bell tolled

**EVERYONE** remembers last season's success stories — Liverpool dominating the First Division, Manchester United winning the F.A. Cup and the international emergence of players like Gary Mabbutt of Spurs and Stoke's dynamic Mark Chamberlain.

Spare a thought, though, for the clubs and footballers who experienced a disappointing campaign.

SHOOT has been talking to some of the men who look back over the past few months and wonder why the dreaded doom bell tolled for them.

Last summer Gerry Armstrong was the toast of Northern Ireland. The amiable 29-year-old Watford striker had just returned from Spain, where he was voted Britain's best player in the World Cup. For once Elton John played second fiddle as Armstrong's fan mail, from countries such as South Africa and Austria, poured into Vicarage Road.

At the time, he said: "Spain was a bit of a dream, but I have the feeling that my dream is not over yet."

To a certain extent, he was proved right, scoring a couple of goals in Watford's first two games in Division One. But then Lady Luck ruthlessly turned her back on him. He scored only once in nine more matches. Then disaster struck... in two places.

He recalls: "I broke my leg and an ankle in a reserve game at Reading last October. I didn't realise the injury was so serious when it happened. After the initial numbness, I felt life coming back to it and wanted to play on. But the physio thought otherwise and the next day the worst was confirmed."

"I had never experienced an injury of that type and it was very frustrating. Fortunately, Jan Lohman was also on the 'sick list', so I had someone to gee me up when I got low."

Armstrong returned to first team action in May, making two brief substitute appearances against Sunderland and Ipswich. However, his tale of woe was not over. Manager Graham Taylor placed him on the transfer list and thanked him for his services.

He says: "I've always been an optimistic person, so I tend not to worry about the future. I've got a year's contract left. I'd like to stay but first team football must be my



Neither Watford striker Gerry Armstrong (left) nor Brighton's Tony Grealish (below) had too much to smile about during the 1982-83 season.

main consideration."

At the start of last season, many people considered Crystal Palace a good bet for promotion from Division Two. Alan Mullery arrived at Selhurst Park in June, 1982, determined to bring some stability to a club which had lost its way in the turbulent seas of boardroom upheavals and managerial changes.

## Challenge

By mid-October, they were lying eighth and perfectly poised to make a serious challenge on the pacemakers such as Queens Park Rangers and Wolves. But then everything went wrong.

Mullery explains: "We just didn't have the playing staff to cope with the situation we found ourselves in. Both our main strikers suffered serious injuries which kept them out for much of the season."

"Lack of discipline on the field also let us down. Three players — Billy Gilbert, Paul Hinshelwood and Jerry Murphy — missed a total of 18 matches through suspension."

A season of high promise nearly turned into disaster, with Palace only escaping relegation thanks to a 1-0 victory over Burnley in their last game of the season.

Midway through last season Coventry were bang on course for

the same time. A team can cope with two lads going through a bad patch but not seven or eight. Naturally, we lost confidence and nearly paid the penalty."

One team who did pay that penalty were Brighton, although they were compensated by a magnificent Cup run.

Vice-captain Tony Grealish believes their League problems began within the first month of the season.

"We made a competent start against Ipswich at the Goldstone Ground, earning a 1-1 draw. But then we suffered two humiliating away defeats against West Bromwich Albion (5-0) and Nottingham Forest (4-0)."

"It was soul-destroying, particularly at the start of a campaign when everybody has high hopes. We scraped a couple of wins together before crashing again, this time a 5-0 thrashing by my old club Luton."

"Mike Bailey, our manager at the time, left, but the players should accept some of the responsibility. When Jimmy Melia took over we were in such a desperate position that we had nothing to lose."

"We somehow managed to raise our game for one-off matches like the F.A. Cup. The local crowds turned up in their thousands which made a massive difference. Unfortunately, though, we just could not repeat our form in the League."

While Grealish can at least



their first taste of European football since 1970-71. The young players at Highfield Road seemed on the verge of fulfilling the promise they had shown when first introduced to League football.

However, a succession of defeats which started in late February pointed towards a stormy finish for The Sky Blues. Like Palace, the club slipped dramatically down the table and only narrowly avoided the drop.

Mark Hateley, now with Portsmouth, believes there were a number of reasons for the demise.

"The sale of Garry Thompson to West Bromwich Albion was a major factor," he says. "We all missed his immense presence."

"Most of the players lost form at

reminisce about matches last season, Steve Mackenzie of WBA can look back to only one game he played in because of a serious pelvic injury which has been plaguing him for 18 months.

"I played in the opening fixture against Liverpool at Anfield. I was only 85 per cent fit and after that game I knew I needed a long rest to clear up the problem."

"I tried everything, including various types of injections, but nothing worked. Eventually, I decided to have an operation last December and hopefully it's proved a success."

All of the people we have spoken to look back over the season with anguish. Hopefully, 1983/84 can only prove more successful...



Beat the SHOOT Quiz expert. If you can! Award yourself a goal for each correct answer and one for SHOOT if you fail to get it right. Put the scores in the boxes at the end of the questions.

**3. If Paul Barron saved a penalty from John Robertson during a pre-season friendly, which two clubs would be in action?**

**4. Is it true that Celtic striker Frank McGarvey (below) is a full Scotland international?**



**6. Bradshaw, Palmer, Parkin, Daniel, Berry, Hughes, Carr, Hibbitt, Gray, Richards and Eves appeared for Wolves in a League Cup Final. Can you name the year, their opponents and the result?**

**7. Which English or Scottish clubs are known by the following nicknames — (a) The Swans, (b) The Shakers, (c) The Bankies, and (d) The Wasps?**

**8. Can you identify the ex-Coventry City defender pictured left and the club he has recently joined for around £325,000?**

**9. Brighton's Neil McNab was transferred to which Second Division club recently for £30,000?**

**10. Arsenal were also in the transfer news when they paid £75,000 to sign a Second Division goalkeeper . . . can you name him?**

YOUR SCORE	SHOOT'S SCORE

CROSSWORD ANSWERS: ACROSS.—(1) Cattle; (7) Strong; (10) Haystack; (12) Free; (13) Vile; (14) Sings; (16) Dale; (17) Spot; (18) Vase; (19) For; (21) Rice; (23) Lamps; (25) Morsen; (29) Mil.; (31) Heat; (33) Cry; (34) Meadow; (36) D'Avray; (37) Best; (40) Fret; (42) Holmes; (44) Club; (45) Feet; (46) Forest; (51) Oakleaf; (52) Robson; (53) Lohman; (54) Earl; (55) Bif; (57) Son; (59) DOWN: (2) Ert; (3) The Doll; (4) Christies; (5) Roy; (7) Skipper; (8) Hostess; (9) Nor; (11) Lane; (12) Five; (13) Even; (18) Pouch; (20) Nameless; (22) James; (24) Edna; (26) Oil; (27) Wagon; (28) Ryan; (30) Lee; (32) Car; (33) Wet; (34) Alike; (40) Shaw; (42) Roberts; (43) Shilton; (45) Russell; (46) Stravello; (47) Lea; (48) New; (50) See.

WBAI GAMES: 1. West; Ham; 2. Dartmouth; 3. Game against New Zealand; 6. The 1929-30 final against Nottingham Forest, which Wolves won 1-0; 7. J. Swannell's Gary Gillespie, a Manchester City to John Lundie from Leeds.

"I'm eager to put myself to the test," says the unassuming Brogan. "I'm certainly not afraid of

MacDonald has seen a fair bit of action on his soccer travels, which



**Alex Bellis**

There's no chance of Celtic, Rangers, Aberdeen or Dundee United being involved in the relegation dogfight, so that leaves two from

six teams being doomed — or one-third if you prefer.

It's a high rate of fatality, but Rennie states: "I'm not interested in odds I'm just interested in results and I know I have the players here at Perth with the spirit, the talent and the ambition to succeed in the coming months."

"St Johnstone players are not quitters. Everyone will realise this by the end of the season . . "

Any team expecting an easy afternoon when The Saints are providing the opposition could be in for quite a shock!

John  
Brogan



**BOBBY SMITH**  
Leicester City





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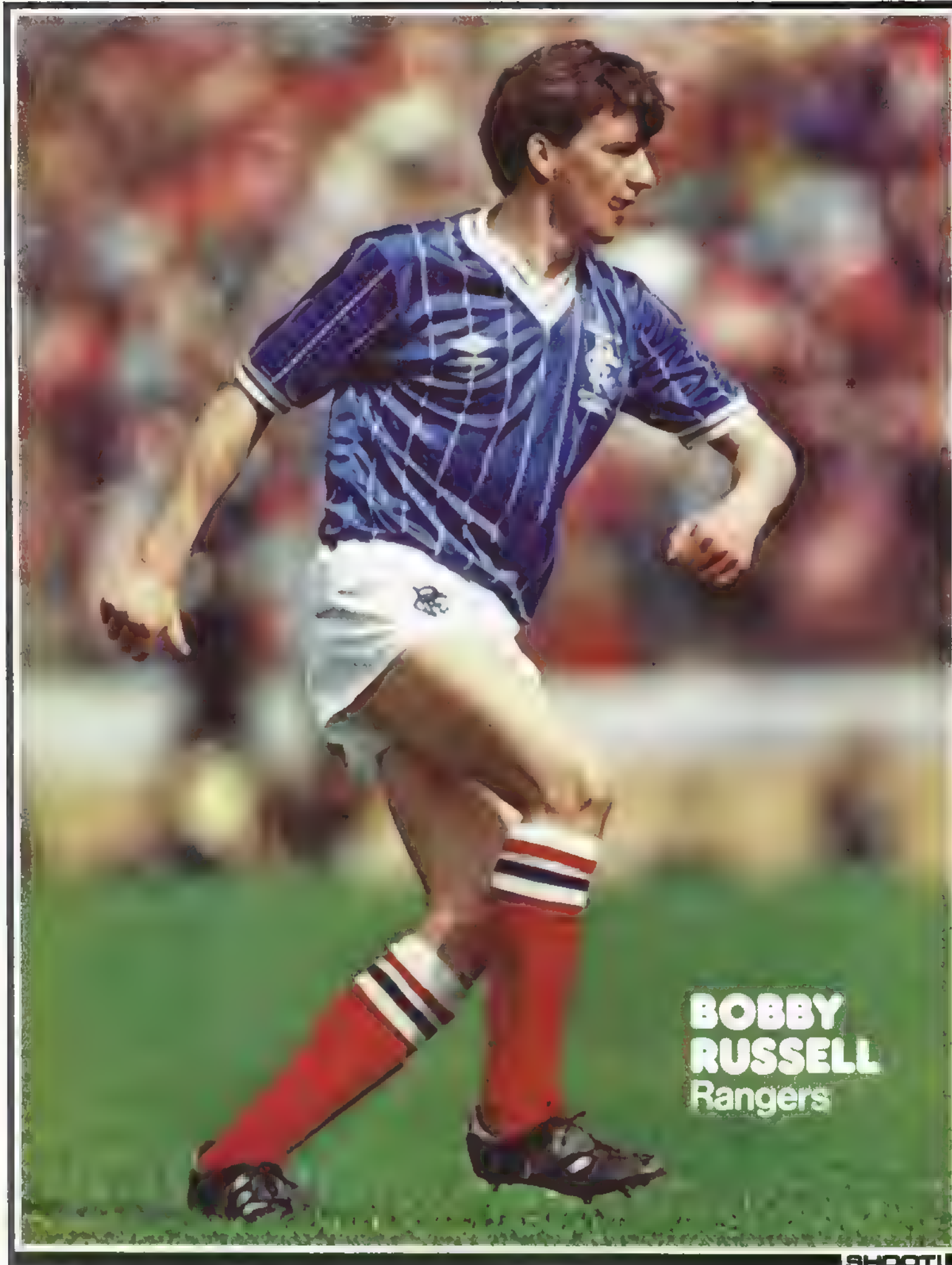
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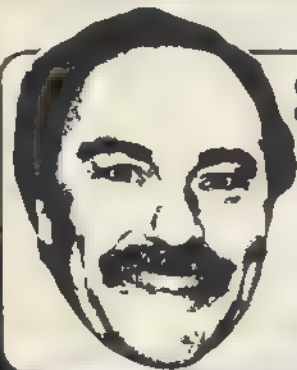




**BOBBY  
RUSSELL**  
Rangers

SHOOT!





## Straight shooting from **JIMMY GREAVES**

Write exclusively to: Jimmy Greaves, SHOOT, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. £10 for Star Letter, 24 others published. **Overrated Bailey** (below) (please state size, small, medium or large). When you write, please include the features you liked best in the latest issue.

### Joe's new job

I was very disappointed by Joe Jordan's decision to sign for another Italian club. After two years of relative failure, I'd have thought he'd be only too pleased to come home to Britain.

**IAN MARSHALL,  
CROYDON, SURREY.**



When I went to Italy in 1961 the law was that you had to be out of the country for three years before you could bring your earnings back to Britain tax free. I don't know if that law still applies, but if it does, it may well have influenced Joe's decision to sign a one-year contract for Verona. I'm sure Joe enjoys the lifestyle out there, but I was disappointed by his decision because I think he's a very good centre-forward who is perfectly suited to the British game.

### Villa fan

Are you an Aston Villa supporter? I ask this because you never seem to have a bad word to say about them, particularly Peter Withe.

**PETER HARRIS,  
HALESOWEN, W. MIDLANDS.**



My job with Central TV means I have to be involved with all Midlands clubs, so it's only natural that I do have a leaning towards teams from that part of the country. Since I started my job, Villa have won the League and the European Cup and I've simply given credit where it's been due. I've also praised Forest, WBA and others, but not so much because they haven't matched Villa's success in that time. And yes, I am a great fan of Peter Withe (below) because he is a 100 per cent honest footballer, and there aren't too many of those around these days.



### Gray's day

Congratulations to Leeds United player-manager Eddie Gray for his recent MBE award. I can think of no current footballer who deserved such an honour.

**NIGEL JONES,  
GWYNEDD, S. WALES.**



It's smashing to see one of the nice guys of the game getting the recognition he deserves. Eddie (right) has been an outstanding servant to Leeds for some 20 years now and has shown outstanding dedication and loyalty throughout some very testing times. And he's been a superb footballer into the bargain.



This week's Star Letter and £10 winner comes from Stephen Petrau of Manchester Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy in Manchester. He writes:

### Overrated Bailey

I cannot understand why everybody tips Gary Bailey as England's next goalkeeper. There are many better young 'keepers around than the vastly overrated Bailey, who is only in the running for an England cap because he plays for Manchester United.



I disagree. I think Bailey is an England 'keeper and the obvious choice to take over when Peter Shilton is no longer up to the job. Bailey's record for Manchester United in recent seasons has been superb, although I admit there have been a couple of question marks against his Wembley performances. I thought he was at fault for Alan Kennedy's goal in last season's Milk Cup Final and he also looked a bit hesitant in the first FA Cup Final against Brighton. Nevertheless, he's the pick of the bunch, even though there aren't that many outstanding young 'keepers coming through at the moment. However, I've always said that anyone from our First Division would be as good as most foreign 'keepers. Shilton's successor is still the least of Bobby Robson's problems right now.



### Reds again

People have been predicting the decline of Liverpool for many years, but now Bob Paisley is no longer in charge do you think it could actually happen this season?

**KEVIN RAYMOND,  
MAGHULL, MERSEYSIDE.**



As I said last week, Liverpool's reign can't go on forever and one day they will be dislodged. But I don't think it will be next season. People said that Bill Shankly could never be replaced, but Bob Paisley's managerial record was even better and I don't think there are any question marks against Joe Fagan and Ronnie Moran. Looking at the rest of the First Division, I can only see Manchester United offering a serious challenge, with possibly Spurs and Arsenal doing well if they can get a good start. But I reckon Liverpool will have at least one trophy to show off next May... and probably more.

### Pompey pride

With the backing of a chairman who puts his money where his mouth is, Portsmouth will take the Second Division by storm next season. Do you agree?

**CHRISTOPHER ALLEN,  
SOUTHSEA, HANTS.**



Few clubs will be trying harder, that's for sure. Portsmouth have gone about rebuilding the club in exactly the right way. They've made some very good signings and the fans are right behind them. They have one of the finest grounds in the country and I'd love to see them back in the First Division.

### Liars!

I'm sick and tired of players who profess an undying love for their clubs and then dash off to sign for someone else at the first chance. I don't mind them going, but I wish they'd spare us the insincere drivel.

**TONY CASEY,  
BARNET, HERTS.**



I agree. Such comments certainly don't do anything for the image of the game. What makes it worse is when genuinely loyal players say that they've no intention of going, everybody automatically treats their comments with a pinch of salt.



Eric Black scores Aberdeen's first goal in last season's Cup-Winners' Cup Final.

### Aberdeen tops

I was delighted to see that Aberdeen were named top team in Europe recently. I can certainly think of no better team at the moment.

**M. MOSSIE,  
AYR.**



Fair comment. On last season's performances, Aberdeen certainly deserved the title. However, I'd still say that over two legs my money would have to be on Liverpool to beat The Dons, even though they didn't win anything in Europe last season. And I'd say that on their day Juventus could beat any other club in the world. They were terrible in the European Cup Final, but we all know they can be so much better.



# FIRST DIVISION 1983-84

	DIVISION 1						DIVISION 2						DIVISION 3						DIVISION 4						FLC		FAC		CS		
	N	C	BP	R	V	X	N	C	P	BP	R	V	X	N	C	P	BP	R	V	X	N	C	P	BP	V	X	W	BP	W	BP	W
ARSENAL	66	8	1	1	—	—	13	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	F	5	W	7
ASTON VILLA	73	7	1	3	2	—	9	2	3	1	1	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	W	7	W	1
BIRMINGHAM C.	48	—	6	7	—	—	32	4	8	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	W	—	F	—
COVENTRY C.	16	—	6	—	—	—	18	1	1	1	2	—	—	22	2	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	SF	—	6R	—
EVERTON	80	7	1	2	—	—	4	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	F	3	W	4
IPSWICH T.	18	1	1	1	—	—	9	2	2	1	1	—	—	11	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	SF	1	W	—
LEICESTER C.	34	—	2	7	—	—	44	6	8	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	W	—	F	1
LIVERPOOL	68	14	1	3	—	—	11	4	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	W	2	W	9
LUTON T.	7	—	8	2	—	—	28	1	3	1	1	—	1	21	1	2	1	1	—	—	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	5R	—	F	—
MANCHESTER U.	58	7	1	5	—	—	22	2	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	F	5	W	8
NORWICH C.	9	—	10	2	—	—	19	1	3	1	1	—	—	28	1	2	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	W	—	SF	—
NOTTINGHAM F.	42	1	1	4	—	—	36	2	4	1	1	1	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	W	2	W	1
NOTTS COUNTY	28	—	3	4	2	—	32	3	4	1	3	—	—	16	2	3	1	2	—	—	8	1	2	1	—	—	—	5R	1	W	—
QUEEN'S PARK R.	7	—	2	2	—	—	13	1	3	1	1	—	—	36	2	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	W	—	F	—
SOUTHAMPTON	13	—	6	1	—	—	34	—	2	2	1	—	—	9	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	W	1	W	—
STOKE C.	50	—	4	4	2	1	25	2	4	1	1	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	W	—	SF	—
SUNDERLAND	87	8	1	3	—	—	15	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	SF	—	W	1
TOTTENHAM H.	48	2	1	4	—	—	16	2	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	W	7	W	6
WATFORD	1	—	2	—	—	—	6	—	1	2	1	—	—	44	1	2	1	1	2	—	5	1	2	1	—	—	—	SF	—	SF	—
WEST BROMWICH	65	1	1	5	2	—	19	2	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	W	—	W	2
WEST HAM U.	31	—	6	2	—	—	26	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	F	3	W	1
WOLVHAMPTON	58	3	1	4	—	—	25	2	4	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	W	4	W	4

# YOUR CLUB'S HISTORY

**F**OR all their recent triumphs, Liverpool still cannot match Merseyside rivals Everton's astonishing record of First Division membership — no fewer than 80 seasons, a figure that puts the Goodison Park club way out in front of the rest of the Football League.

And when it comes to Division

Two, nobody can touch Barnsley, who are about to embark on their 49th season in that section.

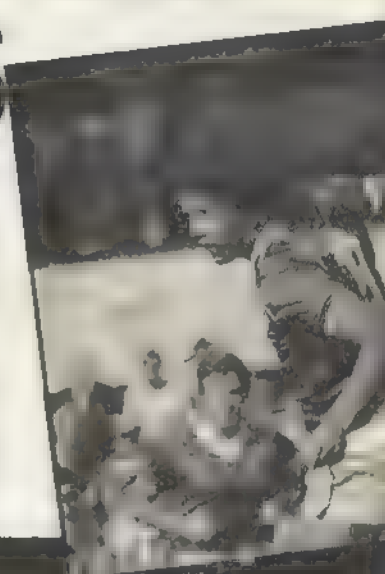
Birmingham, Sheffield Wednesday, Bolton, Leicester and Manchester City share an unwanted statistic — all five clubs have been relegated from Division One seven times!

And when it comes to sailing

close to the wind, nobody can touch Halifax Town, who have now been re-elected to the Football League no fewer than ten times.

These fascinating facts, and countless more, are contained in this exclusive statistical chart, compiled by Tom Garnell of Sportsfax.

First, make sure to study the key which lists all the abbreviations, then get stuck into the tables. Some clubs in the lower divisions have surprisingly illustrious pasts — and some high fliers have yet to win a major honour!



# THIRD DIVISION 1983-84

	DIVISION 1						DIVISION 2						DIVISION 3						DIVISION 4						FLC		FAC		CS		
	N	C	BP	R	V	X	N	C	P	BP	R	V	X	N	C	P	BP	R	V	X	N	C	P	BP	V	X	W	BP	W	BP	W
BOLTON W.	60	—	3	7	1	—	22	2	6	1	2	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	SF	4	W	1
BOURNEMOUTH	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	—	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4R	—	6R	—
BRADFORD C.	10	—	5	1	—	—	18	1	1	1	2	—	—	24	1	1	1	2	1	—	17	—	3	2	2	—	—	5R	1	W	—
BRENTFORD	5	—	5	1	—	—	9	1	1	1	1	—	—	30	1	1	1	3	2	—	12	1	3	1	—	—	—	4R	—	6R	—
BRISTOL R.	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	6	2	—	—	40	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5R	—	6R	—
BURNLEY	51	2	1	5	2	—	31	2	4	1	2	1	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	SF	1	W	2
EXETER C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	—	—	2	1	6	—	17	—	2	2	1	—	—	4R	—	6R	—
GILLINGHAM	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—	—	4	1	4	1	9	1	2	1	—	—	—	4R	—	5R	—
HULL C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	44	—	—	3	5	—	—	21	3	4	1	1	—	—	2	—	1	2	—	—	—	4R	—	SF	—
LINCOLN C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	—	—	5	3	6	3	27	3	3	1	2	—	—	16	1	2	1	5	—	—	4R	—	5R	—
MILLWALL	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	—	3	4	—	—	30	2	4	1	1	2	—	5	1	2	1	—	—	—	5R	—	SF	—
NEWPORT	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	22	1	—	—	35	1	1	1	1	5	1	18	—	1	3	4	—	—	3R	—	5R	—*
ORIENT	1	—	22	1	—	—	41	—	1	2	3	1	—	25	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5R	—	SF	—
OXFORD U.	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	8	1	—	—	10	1	1	1	—	—	—	3	—	1	4	—	—	—	5R	—	6R	—
PLYMOUTH A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	—	4	4	—	—	28	3	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	SF	—	5R	—
PORT VALE	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	—	—	6	3	3	2	27	2	2	1	2	—	—	11	1	3	1	1	—	—	2R	—	SF	—
PRESTON N.E.	46	2	1	6	—	—	31	3	5	1	3	—	—	7	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4R	2	W	—
ROTHERHAM U.	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—	—	3	3	1	1	32	2	2	1	1	2	—	2	—	1	3	—	—	—	F	—	5R	—
SCUNTHORPE	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	4	1	—	—	13	1	1	1	2	—	—	14	—	2	4	2	—	—	3R	—	5R	—
SHEFFIELD U.	55	1	1	5	—	—	21	1	5	1	1	—	—	3	—	—	11	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	5R	4	W	—
SOUTHEND U.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	47	—	—	3	3	2	—	9	1	3	1	—	—	—	3R	—	5R	—
WALSALL	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	6	1	1	2	50	—	1	2	1	7	—	3	1	2	1	—	—	—	4R	—	5R	—
WIGAN A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	18	—	—	—	4	—	1	3	—	—	—	4R	—	4R	—
WIMBLEDON	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	21	2	—	—	4	1	3	1	—	—	—	4R	—	4R	—*

(\* NEWPORT COUNTY have won the Welsh Cup once.) (\*\* WIMBLEDON have won the F.A. Amateur Cup once.)



## SECOND DIVISION 1983-84

	DIVISION 1						DIVISION 2						DIVISION 3						DIVISION 4						FLC		FAC		CS			
	N	C	BP	R	V	X	N	C	P	BP	R	V	X	N	C	P	BP	R	V	X	N	C	P	BP	V	X	W	BP	W	BP	W	
BARNLEY	—	—	—	—	—	—	47	—	—	3	4	2	—	17	3	4	1	2	—	—	10	—	2	2	—	—	—	5R	1	W	—	—
BLACKBURN R.	54	2	1	3	—	—	25	1	2	1	2	—	—	5	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	SF	6	W	1	—
BRIGHTON & H.A.	4	—	13	1	—	—	7	—	1	2	2	—	—	43	1	3	1	1	1	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	5R	—	F	—	1
CAMBRIDGE U.	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	8	—	—	—	2	—	1	2	1	—	—	6	1	2	1	—	—	—	4R	—	5R	—	—
CARDIFF C.	15	—	2	3	—	—	30	—	3	2	3	—	—	11	1	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	SF	1	W	1*	—
CARLISLE U.	1	—	22	1	—	—	12	—	1	3	1	—	—	30	1	2	1	1	1	—	5	—	2	2	—	—	—	SF	—	6R	—	—
CHARLTON A.	14	—	2	1	—	—	27	—	1	2	3	—	—	14	2	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4R	1	W	—	—
CHELSEA	50	1	1	5	—	—	17	—	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	W	1	W	1	—
CRYSTAL PALACE	6	—	13	2	—	—	14	1	2	1	2	—	—	33	1	3	1	—	3	—	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	5R	—	SF	—	—
DERBY COUNTY	54	2	1	5	2	—	28	3	4	1	1	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	SF	1	W	1	—
FULHAM	12	—	10	2	—	—	45	1	2	1	3	—	—	8	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5R	—	F	—	—
GRIMSBY T.	12	—	5	3	—	—	37	2	3	1	3	1	2	24	3	4	1	2	1	—	6	1	2	1	1	—	—	5R	—	SF	—	—
HUDDERSFIELD	30	3	1	3	—	—	22	1	3	1	1	—	—	5	—	1	3	1	—	—	5	1	1	1	—	—	—	SF	1	W	1	—
LEEDS U.	36	2	1	5	—	—	30	2	5	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	W	1	W	1	—
MANCHESTER C.	63	2	1	7	—	—	17	6	7	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	W	4	W	3	—
MIDDLESBROUGH	45	—	3	4	—	—	27	3	4	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	SF	—	6R	—	**
NEWCASTLE U.	58	4	1	3	—	—	21	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	F	6	W	1	—
OLDHAM A.	9	—	2	1	—	—	25	—	1	2	2	—	—	24	2	2	1	1	—	—	7	—	2	2	2	—	—	3R	—	SF	—	—
PORTSMOUTH	25	2	1	1	—	—	19	—	1	2	2	—	—	10	3	3	1	1	—	—	2	—	1	4	—	—	—	5R	1	W	1	—
SHEFFIELD W.	51	4	1	7	—	—	24	5	6	1	1	—	—	5	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5R	3	W	1	—
SHREWSBURY T.	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	9	—	—	—	27	1	1	1	1	1	—	2	—	2	2	—	—	—	SF	—	6R	—	*
SWANSEA C.	2	—	6	1	—	—	33	—	1	3	2	—	—	13	2	3	1	2	—	—	8	—	2	3	1	—	—	4R	—	SF	—	*

(\* SWANSEA C. have won the Welsh Cup 8 times, CARDIFF C. 19 times and SHREWSBURY T. 4 times.)  
(\*\*MIDDLESBROUGH have won the F.A. Amateur Cup twice.)



LEFT: Everton and Watford have rarely differing First Division histories.  
ABOVE: Manchester United celebrate their fifth F.A. Cup Final win.



Barnsley (dark shirts) have spent more time in the Second Division than any other club.

### KEY:—

N = Number of seasons in that Division  
C = Championships  
BP = Best Performance  
R = Relegations  
P = Promotions  
V = Re-elected successfully  
X = Not re-elected or resigned  
W = Winners  
F = Finalists  
SF = Semi-Finalists  
FLC = Football League Cup  
FAC = F.A. Cup  
CS = Charity Shield

## FOURTH DIVISION 1983-84

	DIVISION 1						DIVISION 2						DIVISION 3						DIVISION 4						FLC		FAC		CS		
	N	C	BP	R	V	X	N	C	P	BP	R	V	X	N	C	P	BP	R	V	X	N	C	P	BP	V	X	W	BP		W	BP
ALDERSHOT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	8	1	2	—	22	—	1	4	1	—	—	2R	—	5R	—
BLACKPOOL	27	—	2	3	—	—	43	1	3	1	1	2	1	3	—	—	12	1	—	—	2	—	—	12	1	—	SF	1	W	—	—
BRISTOL C.	9	—	2	2	—	—	35	1	2	1	5	—	—	26	3	4	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	14	—	—	—	SF	—	F	—
BURY	22	—	4	2	—	—	37	1	2	1	3	—	—	13	1	2	1	2	—	—	6	—	—	14	—	—	—	SF	2	W	—
CHESTER	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	—	—	2	1	2	—	18	—	1	4	4	—	—	SF	—	5R	—
CHESTERFIELD	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	4	2	4	1	36	2	2	1	2	—	—	9	1	1	1	—	—	—	4R	—	5R	—
COLCHESTER U.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	3	5	2	—	11	—	4	2	1	—	—	5R	—	6R	—
CREWE A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	10	—	2	1	—	32	—	—	6	2	3	—	23	—	2	3	7	—	—	3R	—	SF	—
DARLINGTON	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	15	1	—	—	—	29	1	1	1	1	3	—	24	—	1	2	5	—	—	5R	—	5R	—
DONCASTER R.	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	7	3	—	2	—	23	3	3	1	4	—	—	19	2	3	1	3	—	—	5R	—	5R	—
HALIFAX T.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—	—	2	2	6	—	13	—	1	2	4	—	—	4R	—	5R	—
HARTLEPOOL U.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	—	—	2	1	3	—	24	—	1	3	10	—	—	4R	—	4R	—
HEREFORD U.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	22	1	—	—	—	4	1	1	1	1	—	—	6	—	1	2	3	—	—	3R	—	4R	—
MANSFIELD T.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	21	1	—	—	—	35	1	1	1	3	1	—	9	1	2	1	—	—	—	5R	—	6R	—
NORTHAMPTON T.	1	—	21	1	—	—	3	—	1	2	1	—	—	36	1	1	1	2	—	—	16	—	2	2	3	—	—	5R	—	5R	—
PETERBOROUGH	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	4	2	—	—	11	2	2	1	—	—	—	SF	—	6R	—
READING	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	14	1	—	—	—	44	1	1	1	3	—	—	7	1	2	1	—	—	—	4R	—	SF	—
ROCHDALE	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36	—	—	2	2	4	—	19	—	1	3	5	—	—	F	—	4R	—
STOCKPORT	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	10	3	4	1	—	29	2	2	1	2	—	—	21	1	1	1	4	—	—	4R	—	5R	—
SWINDON T.	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	5	2	—	—	—	48	—	—	2	1	3	—	1	—	—	8	—	—	1	W	—	SF	—
TORQUAY U.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	—	—	2	2	1	—	17	—	2	3	—	—	—	3R	—	4R	—
TRANMERE R.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	22	1	—	—	—	43	1	1	1	3	2	—	11	—	2	4	1	—	—	4R	—	5R	—
WREXHAM	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	15	1	—	—	—	43	1	1	1	3	—	—	8	—	2	2	1	—	—	5R	—	6R	—
YORK C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	15	1	—	—	—	28	—	1	3	3	1	—	17	—	3	3	6	—	—	5R	—	SF	—

(\*WREXHAM have won the Welsh Cup 21 times, CHESTER 3 times, CREWE A. twice and BRISTOL C. & TRANMERE R. once each)



# SHAPE UP WITH JACKS

## 2. DEEP-KNEE SQUATS

As with the variations of press-ups which I showed you last week, the one-legged deep-knee squats are a focal exercise aimed at one specific group of muscles.

In this case, the muscles affected are those of the legs, and I'm sure I don't need to stress just how

important they are to footballers. Although the deep-knee squat is a relatively simple exercise to follow, I can assure you that it's a lot tougher than it might look, so take things very easily at first.

You start off by standing alongside a chair, gripping the top with your nearest hand.

Stretch one leg out in front of you as if you've just kicked a ball and then bend the other leg from

the knee (picture A).

Keeping the outstretched leg as straight as possible, continue to bend until you are virtually sitting on your heel (picture B) and then push yourself back up.

Repeat the exercise as many times as you can manage, then change over and bend from the other leg.

Once you feel sufficiently confident, try the deep-knee

PIC A



PIC B



squats without the chair, which is only helping you to keep your balance, nothing more. Bending without the help of a chair will make you much surer on your feet.

Obviously, balance is a marvellous asset for any sportsman, including footballers. The secret of Kenny Dalglish's fine ability to turn so quickly (above) is that his sense of balance is so well developed.

Deep-knee squats are also good for developing powerful thighs, calves, ankles and toes.

I'm sure you'll agree — a very useful and worthwhile exercise!

**NEXT WEEK: Jack-knife sit-ups.**

## 'Stein is Luton's ace' says Jake Findlay



**P**AUL Walsh may have attracted most attention in the last twelve months following his transfer from Charlton Athletic to Luton Town. But the real jewel in the Kenilworth Road camp is **Brian Stein**!

At least that's the view of goalkeeper Jake Findlay, who himself looks set to leave The Hatters following the arrival of Les Sealey from Coventry.

"I think Paul's a terrific prospect, and he deserved everything that's come his way over the past year, including full England recognition," says Findlay. "But personally I believe Brian Stein is an even better player, and providing he avoids the kind of injury problems that plagued him last season, I'm convinced he has an even brighter future in the game."

"Paul scored 13 goals in 41 League games in his first season in



Brian Stein scored 15 goals in just 20 full League games for Luton last season.

Division One, which is pretty good going. But what some people have overlooked is that it was also Brian's first season in the top flight, and even though his appearances were limited to 20 full games — and in a couple of those he wasn't really 100 per cent fit — he still managed 15 goals to finish as the club's top scorer.

"Had he played a full season, I'm convinced the club wouldn't have been anywhere near the relegation zone, let alone involved in that do or die finish against Manchester City."

Findlay says Stein has far greater body strength than his partner, which is essential for any striker if he's not going to be bundled off the ball. "And he's already learnt that it's in the penalty-area where the most successful goalscorers do their work."

"Paul has a tendency to drop back towards the halfway line looking for the ball, then once he's got it he has to travel half the length of the field again to get back into the danger zone."

"Brian works in the final third of the pitch, preferring to preserve his strength and speed for the areas of the park where he knows he can present most danger to the opposition."

Luther Blissett was the most successful goalscorer in the First Division last season, and look what that earned his club in terms of European football next season, not to mention £1 million in the bank. Given an injury-free run next season, I'm convinced Brian could do likewise."



# PAINTER CAN'T WAIT FOR THE BIG K.O!

**A**FTER an eventful first season in the Football League, the big kick-off can't come quickly enough for Stoke City's exciting young striker Ian Painter.

The 18-year-old England Youth international, who was still an apprentice when he made his debut at home to Everton, explains: "I enjoyed my run in the first team so much that I can't wait to get going again."

"I can still hardly believe the transformation in my career within the space of a few weeks. I never really expected to win my place so quickly but now I've got no intention of giving it up."

Painter made an uninterrupted run of 22 League appearances for a Stoke side whose challenge for a UEFA Cup spot faltered only during the run-in. And he contributed five goals.

"I should have done better in terms of scoring. Richie Barker has made that point to me and I know he's right. Hopefully, I'll do better next season," he adds.

It was only two hours before Stoke kicked-off against Everton that manager Barker told Painter he'd be playing. "He told me to report to his room at the hotel where we'd had our pre-match meal," the youngster recalls. "I didn't really know what to expect."

"I began to get a bit excited at being picked as substitute. I thought the best I could hope for was a place on the bench but when he said I was to be in the team I could hardly believe it. It came right out of the blue."



Stoke's experienced stars such as Sammy McIlroy (left) have been a great help to Painter.

Painter made a satisfactory debut but afterwards was brought down to earth when he had to join his fellow apprentices in scrubbing out the dressing room. But that was the last time he had to tackle such chores.

The following day he signed as a professional on his 18th birthday and a week later he was celebrating his first goal for the club to earn Stoke a draw at home to Birmingham City.

He says: "When I was first called up I was a bit nervous about how I'd settle in, but within a couple of games I could feel an understanding developing

between big Brendan O'Callaghan and myself.

"Things happen a lot quicker in the First Division and the players'

reactions are far sharper than in the reserves. The main problem was in the last third of the field because I found myself up against some of the very best defenders in the country.

"As I've said, Brendan helped me a lot and I was also grateful for the support I received from Mickey Thomas and Sammy McIlroy.

They've been around the scene a few years now and it was terrific the way they tried to gee me up. "They weren't afraid to get me involved and this gave my confidence a big boost. They were always encouraging me."

Stoke's progress raised a few

eyebrows up and down the country and almost before anyone had noticed they slipped quietly into contention for a place in Europe.

"We felt we had a chance all along and as the last few games were in sight it looked as if we only had to win at home and collect a point here and there away to make it," says Painter.

"But the real turning point was when we could only draw 1-1 at home to Southampton who were in a similar position to ourselves. All we could manage was one point from our last four games so we didn't really deserve to qualify for the UEFA Cup."

Caught up in the tightest middle-of-the-table scrap for years, Stoke had to settle for 13th place in the end. And with the possibility of several gaps to plug in the side, how does Painter feel the Potters will fare next season?

## 'Experience'

"Several of the lads reached the end of their contracts and it just depends who stays and who goes," he says. "We lost Dave Watson towards the end of last season, of course, and Paul Bracewell has signed for Sunderland. But Dennis Tueart's arrival from Manchester City will add even more experience."

One of Painter's outstanding memories of last season was an F.A. Cup Fourth Round tie against Liverpool at Anfield. "We played five at the back and I was on my own up front," he recalls. "We lost 2-0 and were slated for our tactics."

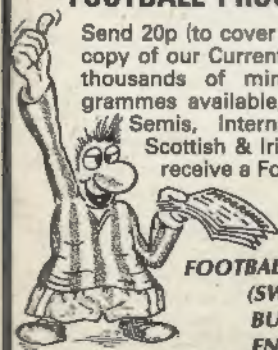
"Anyway, a few weeks later we were back at Anfield for a League game and the boss decided to play three forwards. This time we were hammered 5-1. How can you win?"

Painter ended the season by helping England's Youth side to third place in the European Championship, his own personal highlight being two goals in the 4-2 defeat of holders Scotland.

"I started the season with all the other apprentices doing odd jobs around the ground, including painting the stands, the railings and even the goalposts. At that stage I was worried about being kept on."

"What's happened since then has been like a dream come true!"

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*Mike Duxbury* (Man.  
United).

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magazine!**



# Nick Pickering ENGLAND'S 'UNKNOWN' STAR

**ENGLAND'S 'unknown'**  
star. The description  
certainly fits the bill as far  
as Nick Pickering is  
concerned.

Before Pickering  
suddenly sprung to  
prominence during  
England's close season tour  
in Australia, any talk of him  
gaining full international  
recognition would have  
baffled soccer supporters  
throughout the country.

But 19-year-old Nick's talent is  
well known to Sunderland fans,  
who were delighted when he  
started his climb to fame with an  
appearance for the England Youth  
team against Scotland at Coventry  
two seasons ago, followed by an  
appearance as substitute for the  
England Under-21s in their 4-1  
victory in Denmark last  
September.

Incredibly, however, Pickering's  
career in football nearly failed to  
get off the ground. He was almost  
booted out of Roker for being too  
small.

Nick explains: "I'd been  
associated with the club since I  
was 14. But when it came to  
signing as an apprentice some  
three years ago, the then manager  
Ken Knighton had a shock in store  
for me.

"He told me I was on the small  
side, perhaps too small to make it,  
but added he would have me  
worked on for a few weeks before  
making a final decision — and this  
was after six other lads I'd trained  
with were taken on.

"Admittedly, I was something of  
a lightweight. I was 5ft. 6in tall and  
built like a matchstick, without a  
great deal of stamina.

"Our coaches, Mick Docherty  
and Alan Thompson, told me I was  
outgrowing my strength, advised  
me to go back to sixth-form school  
and train only on Tuesday and  
Thursday evenings. I did this, was

soon 5ft. 8in. and later reached my  
present height of 5ft. 11½in.

"During all this time, the man  
who stood by me and always  
believed in me was Charlie  
Ferguson, who was our chief  
scout. Charlie argued my case for  
staying at Roker and I'll never  
forget the debt of gratitude I owe  
him."

Pickering's progress to the  
England team in Australia  
followed his rapid rise to fame at  
Sunderland, where he has showed  
eye-catching ability in several  
departments on the field.

He says: "I've played in the  
back-four, in midfield and can also  
do a job on the left wing.  
Quickness off the mark is a big  
help in all these positions, and it's  
difficult to say which is my  
favourite.

"I'm hoping something can be  
sorted out for next season, so that  
I can settle down in one particular  
role. I know it's good to have  
adaptability, but I really don't think  
it's in a player's best interests in  
the long run."

After a gruelling relegation  
battle in 1982-83 with Sunderland,  
Nick regards his trip to Australia as  
a real bonus.

"Wearing an England shirt was

fabulous — and when Bobby  
Robson later told me that I'd made  
a good debut I couldn't have  
wished for anything more. The  
newspapers were also very kind to  
me. They paid me quite a few  
compliments, which put the icing  
on the cake."

Pickering turned out in  
England's final match against  
Australia in Melbourne, which  
ended 1-1, and he is relaxing for  
the rest of the close season before  
the kick-off in August.

"I live quietly, enjoy a walk along  
the beach at Roker with my  
mother's four dachshunds, play  
snooker a couple of times a week  
and have the odd pint with my  
mates. I still can't believe it when  
somebody points me out in the  
street. I'm just an ordinary bloke."

But Sunderland boss Alan  
Durban doesn't consider Pickering  
to be all that ordinary. He says:  
"He looked a gem to me at the  
beginning of his career, and when  
you consider how well he played  
for us you get excited about his  
future. He can go all the way in  
international terms."



Sunderland boss  
Alan Durban.



**1** BRYAN ROBSON was born on January 11, 1957, in Chester-le-Street, Durham, and — like Colin Todd ten years earlier — started his career with Chester-le-Street juniors.

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**2** He first learnt how to play football in kick-about with his father, a long distance lorry driver, on the beaches at Whitely Bay and South Shields.

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**3** His promise was quickly spotted by the professional scouts and he was signed by West Bromwich Albion on associate schoolboy forms when he was just 12.

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**4** Bryan's schoolboy heroes were West Ham's Bobby Moore and Leeds United's Norman Hunter, both central defenders. Central defender was one of his favourite positions when he signed for Albion in August, 1974.

## Secrets of the Stars

*A fascinating series that gives you an insight into the careers of top players*

**9** He made his breakthrough into the England team against Eire in February, 1980, and quickly established himself as a key man whether playing at the heart of the defence or in midfield.



**14** Asked why he was prepared to invest so much money in Robson, Atkinson said: "Quite simply, he is the most complete player in the game. He can defend or create with equal skill and has the gift of players like Duncan Edwards and Dave Mackay in that he can take hold of a game by the scruff of the neck and turn it around. That's why I know this is a good investment."

**15** He made his League debut for United in the goalless draw with Manchester City at Maine Road on October 10, 1981. By the end of the season he had played 32 First Division games and had helped drive United to third place in the table.

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**16** Despite injury problems, Robson was one of the successes for England in the World Cup Finals in Spain and proved his goalscoring ability with two against France, including a lightning strike in just 29 seconds.

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**17** His injury curse caught up with him again in the 1982-83 season but he was still able to prove himself a lion of a captain for United and then, the ultimate honour, England.

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**18** He led United to the F.A. Cup Final and it was his two goals and driving display in the replay that set up a crushing 4-0 victory over Brighton.

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**19** The bombshell news for United was that AC Milan were so impressed by Robson's performances against Brighton that they were prepared to break all transfer records to buy him.

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**20** Ron Atkinson quickly killed off the Italian interest with the statement: "Bryan Robson is not for sale at any price. He will be playing in Europe next season... with Manchester United." Bryan ignored all the transfer fuss and scored the goal that lifted England to victory over Scotland before limping out of the game with yet another injury.

# BRYAN ROBSON'S CURSE

**5** His cool, commanding defensive play earned him a regular place in the England Youth team and he had a run of seven England Under-21 appearances.

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**6** But Robson's early days in professional football were usually more about heartbreak than glory. He broke his leg twice, fractured an ankle and had to win the confidence of four different managers at West Brom — all before he was 21-years-old!

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**7** He kept secret the fact that he was getting fed up with being shifted from one position to another. He played in midfield, at the centre of the defence, as a makeshift striker and also at left-back. "I was getting really sick of being shunted around," he says. "But now that I look back I realise the experience was invaluable."

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**8** It was the arrival at The Hawthorns of Ron Atkinson as manager that led to a great step forward in Robson's career. He settled into a regular role as left-sided midfielder and his ability grew along with his confidence.

**10** Robson is quick to give Ron Atkinson (above) the credit for his emergence as an outstanding international player. "It was Ron who kept pumping up my confidence until I was convinced I was good enough for England," he says. "He really pushed me until I was playing at a level that he knew I could reach."

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**11** He was the only player to experience every minute of England's sometimes agonising and in the end successful campaign to reach the 1982 World Cup Finals in Spain.

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**12** In September, 1981, he guarded the biggest secret in football. He was wanted by his old boss Ron Atkinson at Manchester United.

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**13** There was uproar when United's interest was made public. "Bryan Robson leaves here over my dead body," said West Brom manager Ronnie Allen. He signed for United in a British record £1,500,000 deal on October 1, 1981. Ronnie Allen is still alive!



Robson heads his second goal for England against the French in last year's World Cup Finals.





**Super  
Focus**

# GARRY THOMPSON

**England U-21  
and WBA**

**FULL NAME:** Garry Thompson  
**BIRTHPLACE:** Birmingham  
**BIRTHDATE:** October 7, 1959  
**HEIGHT:** 6ft  
**WEIGHT:** 12st 10lbs  
**MARRIED:** Yes, to Louise  
**CHILDREN:** One on the way  
**CAR:** Ford Cortina  
**PREVIOUS CLUB:** Coventry City  
**NICKNAME:** 'Thommo' or 'Bruno'  
**FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER:** Daily Mirror  
**FAVOURITE PLAYER:** Leopoldo Luque (Argentina)  
**A PLAYER FOR THE FUTURE:** David Barnes (ex-Coventry, now with Ipswich)  
**FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM:** Coventry  
**FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD:** George Best  
**FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT:** Athletics  
**OTHER SPORTS PERSON YOU MOST ADMIRE:** John McEnroe  
**YOUR BEST EVER ALL TIME XI:** Yashin, Carlos Alberto, Marinho, Krol, Beckenbauer, Bobby Charlton, Zico, Maradona, Müller, Cruyff, Pele  
**MOST MEMORABLE MATCH:** The League Cup Semi-Final against West Ham in 1980-81. I scored an own goal but came back and scored twice  
**BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT:** Breaking my leg  
**FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS:** Coventry's  
**BEST STADIUM PLAYED IN:** National Stadium, Japan  
**MISCELLANEOUS LIKES ... DISLIKES:** A relaxing meal out ... Ignorant people and hangers on  
**FAVOURITE SINGERS:** Rick James, Phil Lynott, Bruce Springsteen  
**FAVOURITE ACTOR & ACTRESS:** Bob Hoskins and Lesley-Anne Down  
**FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT:** Tenerife  
**BEST FILM SEEN RECENTLY:** 'An Officer And A Gentleman'  
**FAVOURITE TV SHOWS:** No Problem, Cheers and Three Of A Kind  
**FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF:** Sleeping late and a game of pool  
**FAVOURITE FOOD + DRINK:** Steak and kidney pie, milk  
**BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER:** Dave Sexton, because the advice and help he gave me over the last couple of years improved me both on and off the field  
**SUPERSTITIONS:** None  
**INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:** Eight Under-21 caps for England  
**PERSONAL AMBITION:** To be happy and rich  
**IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO?** Go into the army  
**CAREER AFTER PLAYING:** Start a business  
**WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?** Pope John Paul



Wimbledon Champ  
John McEnroe

*Garry Thompson*

**SHOOT!**